

# SOCCER



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**WEEKLY**

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GST INCLUSIVE

## Why South played Boutsianis

By Bert van Bedaf

**C**ontroversy stalks South Melbourne forward Con Boutsianis like an avenging shadow.

Last Friday night he scored the winning goal against former team Kingz FC, after South had made an agreement with the NZ based club not to field him during their Round 15 clash.

It is most likely the Melbourne club will lose the three competition points following a tribunal hearing to occur this week.

South chairman Peter Mitrakas said the club decided to play Boutsianis because the Kingz had broken a confidentiality clause between the clubs over Boutsianis's transfer from the Kingz to South nearly a fortnight ago.

He said South had agreed not to play Boutsianis against the Kingz and that the agreement would remain confidential.

But the Kingz posted a message on their website and informed the New Zealand media of the agreement, because the club believed it was bound "to keep faith with its supporters and inform them".

South claimed the Kingz therefore broke the contract conditions.

Mitrakas also said the transfer form signing Boutsianis over to South did not show any conditions, therefore believing the transfer was unconditional.

"We played Boutsianis because we had no legal obligation not to play him, because it was not part of his transfer form," Mitrakas said.

"We gave a letter to Soccer Australia saying we wanted to play him (against Kingz). SA then apparently issued a clearance that it had cleared the player on two conditions, one was the terms of settlement between him and the club (Kingz), PFA and SA, and the letter we'd written (re non-playing). So, SA gave a clearance based on terms of a settlement we had not sighted and not signed off on."

Mitrakas said Boutsianis had claimed he had never signed off on the (non-playing) agreement and was also in a position to sue the club, if it had not fielded him.

"The player (Boutsianis) demanded that he played. He demanded that if he didn't play, he'd hold our club (South Melbourne) responsible and he would consider that we had breached his contract (with him) and that we would be liable



Con Boutsianis

for his loss of income," he said.

Boutsianis hit out at the ethics of his former employers in trying to force him to sit out the game.

"I think it's a disgrace that clubs can decide who you can play against. If you get a release you should be able to continue to play," he said. Before kick-off Soccer Australia had warned South Melbourne it would "bring the game into disrepute" if it fielded Boutsianis.

South ignored the warning and fielded the match winning forward angering Kingz director Chris Turner. NSL manager Stefan Kamasz believes the Kingz have a case and South acted wrongly. "An agreement was reached between the two clubs. South Melbourne reneged on it," Kamasz said.

In a parting shot, Mitrakas hit out at the Kingz and Soccer Australia over the way they had reacted and handled the Boutsianis transfer.

"All that Soccer Australia could come up with it that we brought the game into disrepute by playing Boutsianis and I've got that in writing. The only people who brought the game into disrepute are the people who acted in a misleading and conspiratorial manner," Mitrakas said.

(Continued on Page 3)



Football Kingz' Gerard Davies (left) attempts to stop South Melbourne's rampaging, young striker Massimo Muroccca last Friday night.

## Cantona turns down Knights

By Bert van Bedaf

**F**renchman Eric Cantona won't be coming out for the Knights game against South Melbourne at Colonial stadium next month.

"Cantona is not coming out for the game (against South Melbourne)," Miro Mikrut, the Knights director in charge of the project, said.

"We are speaking with a number of other players and we're having a meeting this week to discuss what to do," he said.

The Knights play third-placed Olympic Sharks at Knights stadium on Sunday.

The match is crucial to regaining a spot in the top six and captain-coach Andrew Marth was very much aware of the importance of the outcome of the game.

The Knights cannot find any consistency this season and continue to pay the price. They keep on pushing for a finals spot and reach a top six position one week only to lose the following week and drop out of the finals places.

The Sunshine club finds itself again in seventh place behind sixth-placed Northern Spirit but only by a goal on equal 19 points.

The Knights share a -2 goal average with the Sydney club, but what counts is it that they have scored a goal less. The Spirit has scored 20 goals and 22 against, while the Knights have scored 19 goals and 21 against.

"We need to regroup and face an improved Sharks outfit at home. We've got a hard job ahead of us," said Marth about the Sunday game.

Leichhardt Tigers In Italy

'Viareggio 2002

Special Series'

— See Page 19.



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## TELEPHONE

(editorial and general enquiries)  
Tel: (02) 9562 0559

or  
Tel: (02) 9562 0565

(advertising)  
John Economos

Tel: (02) 9562 0559

## E-MAIL

(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)  
soccerweekly@hotmail.com  
ABSW's new E-mail:  
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

## FACSIMILE

(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)  
(02) 9550 9332 or (02) 9564 1224

## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sylvia Marinos  
Phone: (02) 9562 0575  
Australia: \$195 (GST incl.)  
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## PRODUCTION EDITOR

Emma Nwaneri

## CHIEF WRITER

John Economos

## STAFF WRITER

Arvind Hickman

## LAYOUT/TYPESSETTING

Mary Quartly, Alamiya Vea

## CORRESPONDENTS

Bert van Bedaf (Victoria Editor)  
Alan Clarke (Melbourne)  
Allan Crisp (Adelaide)  
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)  
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Richard Kreider (Perth)  
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Roy Hay (Victoria)  
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## SCANNING

Bill Hawthorne, Alex Sifakos

## FILM PLANNING

Nick Phillips

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Allsport

## DISTRIBUTION

### NSW/ACT:

FLP Pty Ltd, 5-13 Garners Ave,  
Marrickville NSW 2204  
Tel: (02) 9562 0500

### VICTORIA:

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Collingwood Vic 3066  
Tel: (03) 9486 9522  
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Tony Vidmar: "I've had good times here, but I feel ... that's enough".

# Spirit hunts for junior talents

**N**orthern Spirit will check out some of the best young talent in North and East Sydney at a so-called "Spirit Elite Camp" at its Cromer Park training this week.

Brilliant players from the Manly Warringah, Ku-Ring-Gai, Eastern Suburbs and Northern Spirit (Gladesville-Hornsby Association) junior representative sides will take part in the four day camp, which started on Monday.

The camp is designed to identify the most-talented players in the Northern Spirit catchment area and help develop that talent to benefit the Local Associations in the short term and Northern Spirit in the long term.

Talented juniors from the U/12s through to the U/17s as well as Northern Spirit's scholarship holders and players currently at the NSW Institute of Sport will take part in the camp, which will be run by Northern Spirit's newly-appointed Head of Youth Development Gary McInnes and a team of qualified coaches.

"This is a chance for us to have a look at the best young kids in the

area and also a chance for those kids to develop into better players by being exposed to different training methods and training with players of a higher standard," McInnes said.

"It helps Northern Spirit identify the best young players and the outstanding players of the future as well as helping the four local associations improve their own junior sides ahead of the upcoming Youth League competitions."

The "Spirit Elite Camp" is the first of many such camps, which are being introduced to fully realise the enormous potential of the junior talent in Northern Sydney.

"By exposing the kids to a professional environment as much as possible it will help them develop and hopefully give them a taste of professional football so they strive to make that step in the coming years," McInnes said.

The coaches of all teams will also be involved in the camp to help them develop as well, which will benefit all four of Northern Spirit's affiliated associations.

The Northern Spirit Elite Camp will run from Monday, January 21 to

Thursday, 24 at Cromer Park, South Creek Rd, Dee Why.

# Souris returns for Wolves

**W**ollongong Wolves' skipper George Souris played his first game in nearly four months last Friday when the Wolves hosted Parramatta Power at the WIN Stadium. Souris however turned out for the Wolves' youth team.

The determined Souris has been sidelined with a groin injury, which required two operations and almost six weeks of rehabilitation, but the youth team hitout was the first step towards making a long-awaited return to first grade action with the Wolves.

Meanwhile, Souris' recovery coincides with a mixed injury situation for the first grade side as dependable sweeper Ben Blake was fit again after missing the previous week's encounter with Marconi due to a calf complaint.

Utility player Robbie Stanton was also fit for selection against Parramatta following a hamstring strain, which forced him to be substituted in the 1-1 draw against Marconi.

However, in-form striker Naum Sekulovski is not so lucky as his injured ankle did not recovered sufficiently for him to be available against Parramatta.



George Souris

The injury situation forced Wolves coach Ron Corry to reshuffle his line-up ahead the crucial clash with Parramatta Power. Teenage striker, Greg Sharland was on hand to take the place of Sekulovski, while David Huxley remains unavailable for the next three weeks following his second red card of the season, picked up against Marconi.

# Vidmar to quit Rangers

**A**ustralian international defender Tony Vidmar confirmed last week that he would be quitting Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers at the end of the current season.

Vidmar's contract with Rangers ends in June at the close of the season and accordingly, the big Aussie wants to further his career elsewhere.

Vidmar revealed last week that, "This is my fifth year here, and I think probably now is a good time to move on to another challenge."

"I'm out of contract this summer and I can talk to other clubs. I haven't heard anything from Rangers so I just go on and talk to the clubs who are interested in me."

Everything so far points to Vidmar playing in the English Premiership with Everton being a likely destination. Already, it is believed that Everton's

coach, Walter Smith who was instrumental to Vidmar's signing for Rangers in 1997, is once again keen on bringing him to the Merseyside club. Vidmar lent credence to this belief when he disclosed that, "I'd still like to try England, it's a good league with a lot of quality players down there".

Already, Everton are more than resigned to losing their Portuguese-born defender, Xavier at the end of the season and Smith is keen to bring in the experienced Vidmar as a straight replacement.

"I've had good times here through the five years, but I feel maybe that's enough. As you can see by the results, everyone is beating each other week in week out

and people around the world talk about it as one of the best leagues," added Vidmar.

Vidmar had always been a starter in the Rangers defence, but with the recent coming of new manager Alex McLeish, following the exit of Dutchman Dick Advocaat, he remains unsure of his prospects at the club.

"When a new management comes in, anything can happen, and I would obviously listen to what they have to say," explained Vidmar.

Despite the uncertainty over his future, Vidmar is eager to leave Rangers on a positive note.

"But at this moment in time I'll just need to wait and see what happens. But right now my priority is to try and keep on winning with Rangers and see if we can bring a few trophies here."







Con Constantine: Newcastle United boss.

## Constantine says "no" to Newcastle United

Con Constantine has told Premier League front-runners Newcastle United that the Aussie club is not for sale.

Newcastle United chairman, Freddy Shepard had asked Constantine if the club was available for investment, but while replying 'no', the Australian chairman showed interest in forming an alliance with the English heavyweights.

Newcastle United (Australian) advisor, Remo Nogarotto believes that investment through large foreign football clubs is the best way forward for the local game, especially in today's financial climate.

Nogarotto told the Sydney Morning Herald: "The only source of capital which has an immediate interest in the NSL and has the right kind of football experience is the

overseas clubs, particularly those from the UK.

"Obviously a large part of the reason is that, right now, it is incredibly cheap to buy an NSL club. They're here because they're seeing bargain-basement prices and, strategically, that makes it a good time to enter the market.

"But we just have to accept the fact and be smart about it.

**Newcastle United**



"We would say to foreign clubs, you're allowed to come in to help grow our game and your brand but there will be trade-offs. And if we manage the reform correctly, I can see a limit of, say, 30 percent foreign ownership, with the rest of the clubs either privately owned by Australians or backed by social clubs. The value of the league will go up and everyone will benefit."

# MELBOURNE KNIGHTS CONSIDER FUTURE



By Bert van Bedaf

THE Melbourne Knights are having the biggest battle in the club's history as members are divided over selling Knights stadium as well as selling the team to an overseas bidder in an attempt to determine its future directions.

During a heated meeting last week members voted against selling Knights stadium.

A source close the club said, "Members have voted against the selling of Knights stadium under no circumstances, but they approved of the sale of the team."

It was revealed last week that a Chinese consortium had put in a bid to purchase the Knights team.

The Knights were considering the proposal submitted by Melbourne-based company Golden Star International Investment Pty Ltd. Acting on behalf of the consortium is Golden Star owner Liu Bing, who has arranged several tours for the Knights to

China in the past.

The consortium and Golden Star have close links with China's leading club Shanghai FC, which could end up owning a majority stake in the Melbourne club.

But the Knights board rejected the bid later in the week, despite servicing a \$1 million dollar debt.

Knights chairman Harry Mrksa said the offer was "too low", reportedly around \$400,000.

The same source said the Knights' debt was "not a problem".

"We have (ground) assets of \$4.5 million, so servicing the debt is not a problem.

The club has always been in a positive financial position."

As far as the future of the club was concerned, the source said, "Options will be put to the club at the end of the season. We'll continue as is for the time being."



## Why South played Boutsianis

(continued from front page)

"The purposes of regulation 50.3 under the NSL regulations stipulates that any conditions not stipulated in a transfer form are not valid. No party to a transfer form is legally obliged to perform a term, which is not written on the transfer form. The purpose of that is so that every party to a transfer agrees to the terms and conditions they are meant to be agreeing to.

"So what do you have as a result? Boutsianis didn't agree to not playing. Stefan Kamasz claimed that he agreed over the 'phone. Stefan Kamasz knows the rules and regulations. He's meant to know them and if he doesn't know them he shouldn't be where he is. The rules and regulations say if a condition is agreed upon by a player, he should get the player to sign off on it.

"Also, the club (Kingz) have breached a fundamental term of the agreement. They said they would not release to the public any terms or conditions of the terms of settlement and especially not release to the public that he (Boutsianis) was not allowed to play against them.

"We asked the Kingz for a confidentiality term that Boutsianis would not play. The Kingz refused. They said to us they would have to keep faith with

the New Zealand public by issuing an explanation as to why they agreed to transfer him. So, the Kingz refused a condition we'd agreed upon, knowing that they intended to breach a condition they had agreed upon with Boutsianis. It goes even further than that. Stefan Kamasz knew about these terms of settlement and he goes along with it," Mitrakas said.



Harry Mrksa (left) Melbourne Knights chairman with the Knights player/manager Andrew Marth.



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Club Marconi is seeking applications from suitable candidates for the above position within the organization of the Marconi Stallions and reports directly to the Club's General Manager. The successful candidate must have:

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# Bresciano hat-trick caps off golden weekend for Oz



**ARCHIE THOMPSON:** Lierse striker scored a brace over the weekend.



**JOSIP SKOKO:** Captain scored twice to help Genk climb to the summit in Belgian first division.

## weekend for Oz

By Arvind Hickman

**O**ur Aussie contingent overseas has had a weekend to remember with three players scoring more than two goals for their clubs, including a Marco Bresciano hat-trick.

The Soccerroo midfielder plays for Italian Serie B front-runners Empoli, and is already under the watchful eye of some of Italy's "giants" after a stellar season in which he has scored eight goals.

Bresciano scored twice in the first half and completed his hat-trick in the 73rd minute as Empoli routed Bari 5-1 to remain on top of the table, albeit by goal difference.

Other players on the scoresheet over the weekend include former Marconi striker Archie Thompson and Soccerroo Josip Skoko, both bagging a brace for their Belgian clubs Lierse and Racing Genk respectively.

It was the sixth goal for Thompson in a 3-3 draw with Beveren, and his third in a fortnight, continuing to impress after a slow start to the season.

Skoko's double was vitally important as Racing Genk's 2-1 victory over FC Antwerp leapfrogs them

into first place on the Belgian Erste Klasse ladder. The Genk 'Skipper' setting a fine example no doubt.

John Aloisi scored his sixth goal for Osasuna in a 2-2 draw with Villareal.

Other notable occurrence's abroad include Mark Viduka's elbow on Arsenal's Martin Keown, which is under investigation, and the rare double

appearance of Tony Vidmar and Craig Moore for Scottish giant Rangers, who notched up a 1-0 victory over Aberdeen.

Our top scorer overseas is still Danny Allsopp, who is scoring prolifically for Notts County with 17 goals, followed by Mark Viduka with 12, (who said he was out of form!).



**MARK VIDUKA:** Awaits an investigation after elbowing Arsenal's Martin Keown over the weekend.



**MARCO BRESCIANO:** Scored a hat-trick for Empoli in a 5-1 thrashing of Bari.



**JOHN ALOISI:** Scored for Osasuna against Villareal.

## SA FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of Soccer Australia has released the majority of recommendations contained in the PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the management and finances of Soccer Australia.

They are as follows:

- \* A thorough independent legal review of Soccer Australia's key contracts and associated correspondence should be undertaken.
- \* Procedures should be implemented to ensure that comprehensive contract summaries are prepared and updated as required.
- \* At least two individuals within Soccer Australia should be familiar with the key terms and operations of the Soccer Australia contracts to provide continuity of knowledge.

vide continuity of knowledge.

- \* Guidelines should be implemented to assist the management team and the Soccer Australia Board in assessing the merits of future sponsorship and representation proposals.

- \* Soccer Australia should consider meeting with IEC to agree the current position, and methodology for calculation of future amounts payable - particularly in regard to the current sponsorship arrangements which involve further payments to Soccer Australia in 2002.

- \* Future contracts need to more specifically describe how sponsorship money is to be apportioned between the different parts of soccer (i.e. the National Team and the NSL) and on what basis commission is to be paid to the agents.

- \* All of the Soccer Australia contracts that were reviewed contain numerous reporting and monitoring obligations on both of the contracting parties. These obligations do not appear to have been appropriately controlled within Soccer Australia and this should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

- \* IEC and Soccer Australia should implement a procedure to ensure that amounts due between the parties are identified and settled on a regular basis.
- \* Other short term financing needs to be pursued particularly if a National Team sponsor is not obtained in the short term.

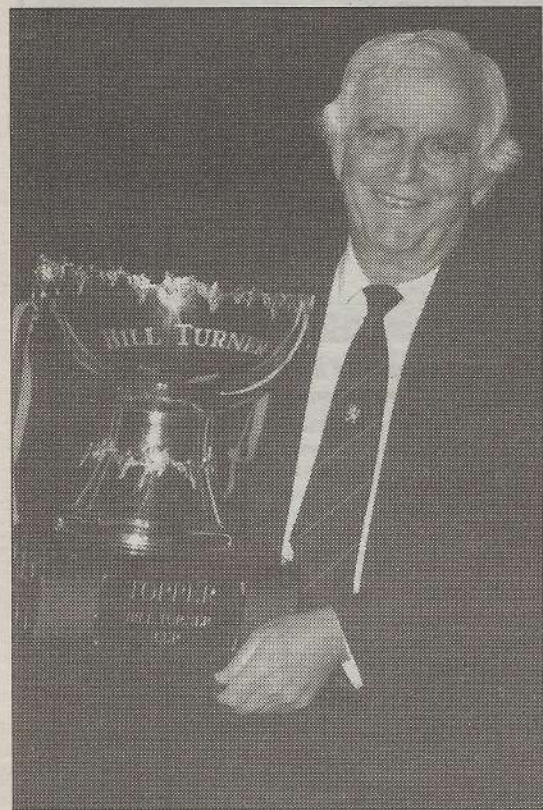
- \* Soccer Australia management need to assess the likely timeframe for payment of all accrued liabilities and potential contingencies. Where necessary, payments required need to be factored into the cashflow forecasts.

## Aussies Abroad Leading Goalscorers

Name	Club	Goals
Danny ALLSOPP	Notts County	17
Mark VIDUKA	Leeds United	12
Harry KEWELL	Leeds United	10
Marco BRESCIANO	Empoli	8
Sasho PETROVSKI	Viborg F.F.	6
Danny INVINCIBILE	Swindon Town	6
John ALOISI	Athletico Osasuna	6
Archie THOMPSON	Lierse	6
Scott CHIPPERFIELD	FC Basel	5
Paul AGOSTINO	1860 Munich	4
Joshua KENNEDY	VfL Wolfsburg	4
Mile STERJOVSKI	Lille	4



# WESTERN AUSTRALIA GEARING UP FOR Bill Turner Cup



Bill Turner

**O**fficials Peter Rickers and Tony Ratcliff left no doubt in anyone's mind that the potential for the development of the Bill Turner Cup is up and running in Western Australia.

At the end of 2001 they conducted a pilot competition of sixteen entries which saw John Curtin College and Woodvale State High School contest a high scoring Final.

While John Curtin

College won 6-3 it was a hat-trick by Joshua Kamasz that assured them of victory.

A good sized crowd turned up for the Final indicating there's great interest there in Western Australian Schools to embrace the Bill Turner Cup.

Joshua Kamasz has already been selected in Angie Postecoglou's Australian Under 16 squad and certainly appears set to outdo his father and uncles who played Premier

League for Weston Bears in Northern NSW.

For 2002, Woodvale, John Septimus Roe High and Forrestfield SHS could be strong contenders as they will be able to play most of their squad members again.

But eyeing them off in the wings could be a number of dark horses who have indicated they will be entering.



Naturally the competition will have to grow and hopefully be able to progress to a play-off situation with South Australia, should that state make a move in the near future.

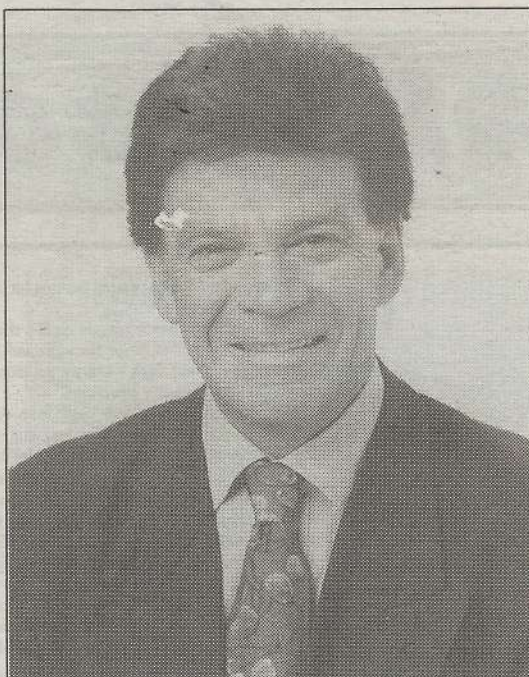
## Sponsorship

Once again the Bill Turner Cup (Boys) and Bill Turner Trophy (Girls) are without a sponsor or sponsors.

It could be argued that this is a spin off following the Socceroos loss in South America because things did appear rosy prior to that event.

Perhaps there was a hope that former Bill Turner Cup players in the team would score the goal needed.

At the moment smaller donations are seeing the series survive in 2002.



John Warren: Former Australian World Cup Captain.

**"S**heilas, Wogs and Poofers is really the story of my time in Soccer in this country," says Johnny Warren, the former Australian World Cup captain.

"It is a story of discrimination against the game and the individuals in it. I hope that this phrase doesn't offend anyone because it's not meant to be offensive.

"And if it does offend in 21st century Australia, then you can imagine what it was like some fifty years ago.

"Sheilas, Wogs and Poofers were the second class citizens of the day.

"That's how Soccer was christened and treated.

## "SHEILAS, WOGS AND POOFERS"

"That's how it was regarded back then, and to some degree, in fact still is today."

Warren went on to elaborate about his newly released book:

"This is not a goal by goal account of Australia's on the field performance. Rather my book takes a broader look at the game: socially, politically and anecdotally.

It is an incomplete biography on me and traces the history of Soccer in Australia," explained the former international captain.

The book soft cover, 21x14cms, is approx 360 pages with 16 pages of pics and sells for \$24.99.

The book will officially be launched at the Sydney Cricket Ground and Football Stadium by Premier Bob Carr on Monday March 4.

It is going to be substantially promoted through the mainstream and ethnic media, especially SBS which will run eighty 30 second prime time ads...

Dymocks is the main distributor.

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## Glory launch youth team

By Richard Kreider

**I**n what is perhaps the most important development for the club since its formation in 1995, a Perth Glory youth team will be launched at a press conference today.

The name and logo will apparently be revealed at Perth Oval in typical Glory fashion at 11am this morning.

The Perth youth team will compete in the local State League competition with the intention of offering aspiring young Western Australians a career path into the National Soccer League.



Perth Glory Manager: Mich D'Avray.

Meanwhile, Glory coach Mich D'Avray was more than pleased with new signing Brad Hassell's debut at Marconi Stallions over the weekend — despite the ex-Adelaide Force midfielder being substituted in the 78th

minute.

"The only reason we took him off was because he was running out of legs," said D'Avray.

"I was pleased with with Brad because he didn't give the ball away and I felt that in previous games we've lacked that."

Brazilian midfielder

Edgar, who is arguably one of the best imports ever to play in the NSL, has yet to be offered an extension to his contract after June 30, along with club captain Gareth Naven and ex-Marconi midfielder Brad Maloney.

D'Avray however, has indicated he wanted to retain all squad members.



## University of New South Wales Soccer Club

### SOCCER TRIALS

#### PLAYERS WANTED FOR NSW SOCCER FEDERATION DIV II

The University of New South Wales wishes to invite any interested players to trial for U19's, U21's and First Grade.

(Not required to be a university student).

Commencing Tuesday 15th January 2002 7pm at Little Bay Sporting Complex — Anzac Pde, Little Bay

#### ALSO

Players wanted for University of New South Wales Eastern Suburbs Soccer Football Association. Catering for Men and Women, from beginners up. (Not required to be a university student).

Commencing Wednesday 23rd January 2002 7pm at Little Bay Sporting Complex — Anzac Pde, Little Bay University of New South Wales is also seeking a senior level Goal Keeping Coach.

For more information please contact TROY COOK on 0412 069 068 or troy.cook@student.unsw.edu.au

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# National Soccer League

## Marconi Stallions Perth Glory

By Arvind Hickman

**P**erth Glory snatched a late winner to earn a 2-1 victory over the Marconi Stallions in an exciting game at Marconi Stadium last Saturday night.

Damian Mori came to the rescue for the Glory, scoring a brilliant individual goal two minutes before fulltime to deny the brave Stallions a deserved point.

Marconi should have been three goals up in the first 20 minutes, but missed some crucial opportunities that proved costly against the lethal front-runners.

If any team can punish lax finishing this season than it is the Glory who boast the two leading marksmen in Mori (12 goals) and Bobby Despotovski (10 goals), the former only needing one opportunity all game to prove the difference.

Despite the disappointing result there were many positives for a young Stallions team who at times outplayed their more fancied opponents.

Glory coach Mich D'Avray was a relieved man after the game, showering much praise for the opposition.

"We didn't come out very sharp and this is an extremely good Marconi team, a better team than they were last year, and they're dangerous," he said.

"To be fair we should have been 3-1 down at half time but they didn't take their chances, they let us in with a sniff and if you let us in we're gonna have a chance.

On the winning goal D'Avray reminded the media of how lethal his front pairing are.

"They were quite, the strikers were well shackled by their defence but they only need one chance and he (Mori) snuck it away. That's why he is the best striker in the league."

A disappointed Lee Sterrey had kind words for his chargers and the sort of character that they showed against the benchmark of the league.

"If we didn't deserve some points out of the game then I must have been at the wrong joint," he said.

"We're always going to express ourselves at home and I was very happy with the first 20 minutes, I thought we had them on the ropes and we probably could have scored a few times but we didn't take our chances. "There's a lot more positives, even though we got beaten in the last two minutes, out of this game in knowing that we have got the character to

play the good sides."

Sterrey also delivered a stern warning for the rest of the competition.

"We've still got some players on the sidelines, and crucial players like Royce Brownlie and Jimmy (Jamie) Afkos, and I think when we get them back we are going to be pretty powerful."

And Royce Brownlie may well have relished some of the early chances as Marconi came out firing and were unlucky not to score in the 11th minute.

Angelo Costanzo played a well calculated long ball from deep to pick out Norman Tome who ran to the box and played across to Alex Brosque on the right. The young striker managed to prod a shot past Jason Petkovic but was denied by Craig Deans who cleared off the line.

Brosque was in the thick of the action again a few minutes later when Grant Last supplied a defence splitting ball over the top. Brosque met the ball with pace and had plenty of time with only the keeper to beat, but hesitated and sent a

low weak shot that was well met by the Glory custodian. The Stallions front two, orchestrated by John Maisano, were creating all sorts of problems flat-footing the Glory back four with superior pace.

Marconi's relentless pressure finally paid off in the 19th minute when Chad Gibson, from the right side, played a ball across to John Maisano on the left, who then skillfully cut back inside a defender and beat Petkovic from just inside the box.

Perth Glory opened the second half much more composed and only took four minutes to conjure up an equaliser out of absolutely nothing.

The ever dangerous defender, Jamie Harnwell latched onto a poorly cleared free-kick, and from 22 metres out rocketed the ball through a maze of bodies and into the top right hand corner. Harnwell always possesses an aerial threat in attack,



John Maisano (left) of Marconi celebrates after scoring against Perth Glory over the weekend.

and isn't shy of scoring, but this effort would have made most strikers proud. The Glory were now doing all the pressing and largely controlled possession.

Brosque created another chance for Marconi in the 53rd minute when he sent a low dangerous cross that just missed a lunging Maisano, and was ballooned by Gibson on the back post.

The killer punch finally came from a brilliant

Damian Mori run in the 88th minute. The NSL's premier marksmen skipped past Shane Webb on the right, slalomed through Dominic Longo and Michael Beachamp in the box before drilling the ball into the far corner from a tight angle.

Glory now extend their lead at the top to ten points while Marconi still hold onto fifth position, albeit by goal difference in a group of three on 19 points.

## Brisbane Strikers Sydney United

By Glenn Davis

**A** shock 2-1 loss to Sydney United at Ballymore severely dented the Brisbane Strikers' premiership aspirations and served a timely reminder that a finals berth is still not secure.

The defeat saw the Strikers slip to third place on goal difference behind Newcastle United, ten points adrift of runaway leaders Perth Glory following its victory over Marconi.

The Strikers have a five point buffer over fourth placed Sydney Olympic but another slip up could see several teams snapping at their heels.

Strikers' coach John Kosmina believed his side had a few things to correct before its next game against Melbourne Knights at home and welcomed its upcoming bye this weekend.

"We were probably due to have a bad one," Kosmina said.

"Luck has been on our side a bit lately. There's a few things we can do with the bye and getting our attitude right is one of them."

Sydney United's victory showed up a possible flaw in the Strikers' makeup with its inability to break down a packed defence.

It was apparent from the opening whistle what coach Branko Culina's intention were in the first half and that was to frustrate the Strikers with a packed defence and only one striker.

Although it led to a dull game for the crowd of 3,500-plus spectators, it reaped dividends for the visiting side.

Sydney United's victory gave

the Strikers a lesson in where courage and commitment can take you as they more than matched the Strikers on their home turf.

Midfielders Christian Cevinini and Ante Milicic did the damage to the Strikers with goals either side of the break while Paul Foster sparked a late rally for the Strikers netting his goal with 10 minutes remaining.

Cevinini gave the visitors a shock 1-0 lead on the stroke of halftime after Strikers keeper Jason Kearton denied Ante Milicic from close range before the rebound fell for Milicic to set up Cevinini in front of an open goal.

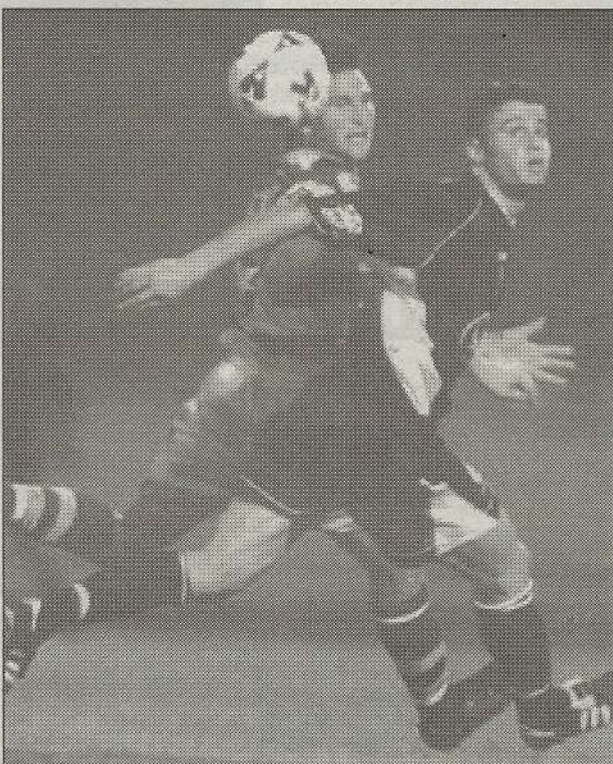
The Strikers have made a habit of coming from behind to win many times this season but they were up against a firing squad four minutes after the interval when Milicic put the visitors ahead 2-0. A perfect cross from speedy midfielder Goran Talevski gave Milicic a simple tap in after Kearton hesitated coming off his goal line.

Brazilian midfielder Fernando Rech, who again worked tirelessly in a disappointing Strikers outfit, set up Foster's late effort.

The final minutes almost saw the Strikers get out of jail when a powerfully hit shot from rookie substitute Matthew McKay was headed off the line by the Bravehearts' defender Elvis Olic seven minutes from time.

Culina said after the victory he was delighted with his team's performance.

"It showed that if we play with confidence we can play good football," Culina said.



Sydney United's Goran Talevski (right) contests an aerial ball with Brisbane striker's Shane Steffanuto.



Toto Da Costa - His impressive play for Melbourne Knights could not prevent victory for Adelaide City.

## Adelaide City Melbourne Knights

By Allan Crisp

**L**ucas Pantelis scored a dramatic winner two minutes from the final whistle to give Adelaide City Force a possible, season-saving 3-2 win over the Melbourne Knights at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night.

The former Under -17 international ended the excitement-charged match with a brace to match the effort of the Knights' equally impressive Toto Da Costa.

But the heroics on the hot night were shared by first game run-on rookies, Daniel Godley (Force goalkeeper), Darren McGrath (Knights goalkeeper) and Force substitute, 18 year old, Mislav (Mimi) Saric.

The latter entered the fray in the 72nd minute and crowned his NSL debut with a goal seven minutes later.

High voltage attacking saw City charging into the Knights penalty box 27 times, while the

visitors returned the favour on 25 occasions.

It was during those hectic times that Godley and McGrath proved their respective worth by diving, punching, parrying and saving from the last line of the defensive forts.

Godley was blooded a fortnight previously when he replaced the injured City first choice custodian Adrian Galaj in the second half of the 1-1 draw with Sydney United, while McGrath had never previously graced the NSL stage.

Andrew Marth's Knights made the early openings on the newly top dressed surface of Hindmarsh, before a stinging ninth minute shot from Alex Moreira was spilled by McGrath, with no Force reinforcements following through to gather the loose offerings.

It was a chance that visiting City goalscoring icon Dixie Deans would have relished, but the former champion appreciated what followed in the next 81 minutes.

City assumed control, but despite furious efforts, the Knights grabbed the lead a minute before half time through the sharp reflexes of Da Costa.

Pantelis equalised for the home side 11 minutes after the interval with an incredible goal that would have confounded Ripley.

Ace City defender Iain Fyfe charged upfield to fire a drive that McGrath saved, but Fyfe, despite falling to the ground, headed the ball to Pantelis, who drove truly into the Knights net.

Control freak, Andrew Marth kept the telling passes rolling to his colleagues, but when he tried a shot of his own, stabbed the ball wide.

A minute later former SASI player Saric enjoyed his historic moment when he retrieved the lead for the Force after Aurelio Vidmar supplied a great cross to the rampant rookie.

The thrills continued as Da Costa completed a cunning one-two exchange with substitute Andy Vargas to level the goal ledger at 2-2.

Seconds earlier, Godley prevented what appeared a certain Knights victory when he raced off his goalline to halt a pulsating run from Joel Porter and the match looked destined to end as City's fourth draw of the season.

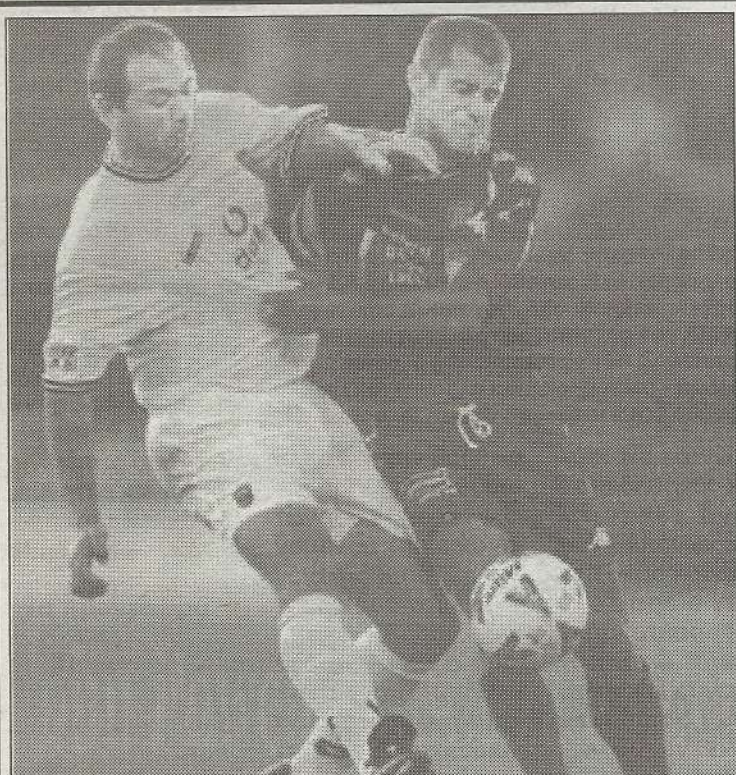
Enter, stage right, Adelaide City captain Carl Veart, who defied the odds to ward off the Knights defenders to keep the ball hugging the bye-line before delivering a brilliant cross for Pantelis to belt in his second goal of the game and his second for the season.

Veterans, Veart and Vidmar played significant roles in the victory, while youngsters Pantelis, Scott Tunbridge, Fyfe, Saric and Kristian Rees were telling contributors.

But the young man who stood out like a beacon in only his eighth NSL match was flank defender Aaron Goulding, 19, former Joey teammate of Fyfe, Pantelis, Tunbridge and Mario Karlovic.



# National Soccer League



Kingz' Striker Joe Markovski (left) attempts to stop South's Con Boutsianis.

## South Melbourne Football Kingz

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By Bert Van Bedaf

South Melbourne staged a Con Boutsianis led revival to beat the Football Kingz 2-1 at Bob Jane stadium last Friday night. The New Zealanders drew level with 20 minutes to spare through Paul Urlovic, but Boutsianis sneaked a dramatic winner two minutes from normal time. He read the re-bounce from a Steve Panopoulos challenge on Kingz 'keeper Michael Theoklitos perfectly and struck the exposed net after side-stepping a desperate substitute Gerard Davis from inside the box.

Referee Perry Mur played five nail-biting minutes of time added-on before the 5000-strong South crowd could crow about their team's hard-fought victory in the biggest grudge match of the season. South decided to field their favorite forward against his former club, for whom he had not played a match this season, controversially defying a Soccer Australia edict. Before the match SA had warned South that the Lakesiders would be hauled before the tribunal, if Boutsianis played, and it would lose full points.

Already before kick-off SA had charged South with "bringing the game into disrepute". The allegations didn't wash with South and the club defiantly included Boutsianis in the starting line-up.

South coach Eddie Krncevic has nothing but praise for the irrepressible Boutsianis. "The team got a boost last week when Con was allowed to play (against Perth). It's obvious he hasn't played for a long time. He's been out of the game for six months. He's missing match practice. But he's a clever player.

He's dangerous from set pieces and he'll score you a goal or set something up. He'll only get better," Krncevic said.

The South coach agreed he had not had a match winner like Boutsianis in the team all season. "I've been saying all along. If we would have someone like Con in the beginning we would have had some better results."

Kingz coach Kevin Fallon sounded irritable at the post-match conference, saying he had not been looking to get a draw out of the game, but he was "hoping to win". "You always live in hope," Fallon said. He refused to enter the Boutsianis debate. "Next question," was his only comment.

For Victorian spectators it was unusual to see John Markovski in a sweeper position for the Kingz. The customary position for the burly player always had been as a striker. "John's a big lad and he communicates well. He felt he could help out by playing there (as sweeper) and I wanted to see him there. He gets exposed for a bit of pace, but he felt he could do it and overall he's done OK," said Fallon, who substituted him for Davis in the 62nd minute.

As far as South was concerned, it was as if Boutsianis had never been away, so smoothly did he slot into the side, conjuring moves South had lacked all season.

Five minutes of South magic, not seen this season but displayed at will last season, netted the home side the opening goal after the Kingz had mounted a sustained attack for the previous 20 minutes.

Chances fell to Mark Burton and Paul Urlovic before Boutsianis charged South with two electrifying free-kicks that crashed into the wall on 23 minutes.

They fired South up for a rare glimpse of its former brilliance, when Joe Bacak broke through and shot past Kingz 'keeper Michael Theoklitos for the opening goal after 27 minutes.

The Kingz players were stunned and appealed for offside. But Mur allowed the strike, indicating South forward Peter Buljan had run back from an offside position but had not interfered with play to give South a narrow lead at half time.

Fallon did not dispute the goal, saying, "There was an appeal from the players but that's not my call."

The Kingz pressed forward immediately after the break and were nearly rewarded in the 67th minute. Andy Vlahos, outstanding for the Kingz, crossed the ball in the box where Burton stood unmarked. But Petkovic brilliantly pushed his header wide with a reflex save. Arguably the NSL best goalkeeper this season, Petkovic has been outstanding for South since returning from overseas.

Credit to the the Kingz, they were undaunted by Petkovic's excellent exploits and three minutes later they got their reward when Davis sent a through-pass to Urlovic, who brought the visitors on level terms.

But Boutsianis had other thoughts, slotting home the dramatic winner two minutes from full time, leaving the Kiwis as the sole side at the bottom of the NSL table.

## Newcastle United Northern Spirit

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By Pano Tagaroulas

A crowd of 10,107 was on hand at Energy Australia Stadium to witness a pulsating encounter between two top-six contenders.

A colourful crowd brandishing the Red and Blue of Newcastle was also dotted with a huge dose of black and white shirts in a welcoming gesture to Mr. Freddy Sheppard, chairman of Premier League namesake Newcastle United.

The opening minutes saw Newcastle dominate proceedings, leaving the partisan crowd wondering how many chances a team needs to score a goal.

In the 3rd minute an early strike by Joel Griffiths from 25m, was tipped over the bar by Paul Henderson. Soon after a Travis Dodd cross come shot drilled in from the right dipped over Henderson and cannoned off the far post.

Newcastle continued to pressure Spirit's area with no success. A 12th minute corner from Spirit allowed an Adrian Cervinski volley that left Beltrame's crossbar rattling.

Continued possession by Newcastle led to a 15th minute Mitchell Johnson volley from the left corner of the 18-yard box. It cleared Henderson's right upright by a couple of metres.

In the 19th minute again, Joel Griffiths broke clear of the Spirit defence, and in a one-on-one with Henderson, scooped the ball over the keeper but beyond the far post and wide.

Shortly after, in a failed attempt to emulate Dutch legend Marco Van Basten, Adrian Cervinski volleyed well over the bar.

Tragedy ironically struck the home side in the 23rd minute when Daniel Beltrame attempted to play a short pass to Scott Baillie. Instead, he managed to find one of

the NSL's most lethal strikers in Pablo Cardozo. Cardozo kept his cool, drew the defence and slotted the ball to an unmarked Cervinski who scored easily to put the Spirit 1-0 ahead and silence the home crowd.

Newcastle continued to dominate possession leading to a 39th minute Scott Baillie strike from 35m that was deflected for a corner.

After the break, the game appeared to be stalling. In the 52nd minute, a speculative Matthew Bingley clearance put Joel Griffiths in a foot race with Cartwright. Griffiths out sprinted his opponent to the ball to put himself through on the Spirit goal. The chance was spurned, though, when he drilled the ball into the side netting.

A couple of minutes later, Northern Spirit had a corner and after a flick-on at the near post, an offside Julian Watts headed the ball into the Newcastle net. The referee's assistant raised his flag and the referee agreed to disallow the effort.

Newcastle coach, Ian Crook then bolstered his side's attack when he brought on striker Daniel McBreen for midfielder Mark Wilson.

In the 61st minute, Esala Masi met a cross from the right. He headed powerfully on the Spirit goal only for Henderson to save brilliantly and palm the ball over the bar.

Five minutes later, a one-two on the edge of the box between Griffiths and Masi led to a shot by the latter, but from the corner of the six-yard box he put it over the bar.

In the 78th minute, Newcastle made a further substitution when ball-playing midfielder Antony Surjan replaced Joey Schirripa.

Soon after, a forward ball by Milan Blagojevic was flicked into the path of a



Pablo Cardozo: Instrumental to Northern Spirit's goal.

rampaging Daniel McBreen who struck powerfully from the edge of area. The ball hit the base of the left upright, only to rebound into the goal off the back of an unfortunate Paul Henderson.

Newcastle could have wrapped the game up in the 82nd minute when a ball played forward to Joel Griffiths put him clear on goal. The danger was nullified when another Newcastle player obstructed Griffith's effort and ran himself offside simultaneously.

The game will be remembered for some outstanding performers. Matthew Bingley utilised his athleticism and guile to starve Spirit of possession while still managing to play intelligent balls forward. Milan Blagojevic provided excellent service to the front-runners and the flanks while Travis Dodd was a constant menace.

On balance, a draw probably flattered the visitors and, on his birthday, coach Ian Crook could have felt aggrieved that his charges did not take more out of this encounter.

## Wollongong Wolves Parramatta Power

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Defending champions Wollongong Wolves continued their strong revival with a well-earned 1-0 win over Parramatta Power in front of their long-suffering fans at WIN Stadium on Friday night.

"We've played better this season but I'm still happy with the result," an obviously-relieved Wollongong coach Ron

Corry said after the keenly-contested game. "I thought we had more clear cut chances and deserved to win."

Corry however had his goalkeeper, the ever-impressive Dean Anastasiadis and also the goalpost to thank for the hard-fought win.

After the Wolves' skipper on the night, Alvin Ceccoli had scored the only goal in the 14th minute to help stretch their recent unbeaten run to four games, the Wolves suddenly capitulated and let their opponents off the hook. It took some hair-raising saves from Anastasiadis as well as had to survive some anxious moments.

Ceccoli's goal came after both teams had missed good chances to go ahead in the opening minutes of the match. It was finally the Wolves that seized their chance in the 14th minute consequent on some brilliant individual play between Alex Castro and young sensation, Greg Sharland who was on the park in place of injured striker, Naum Sekulovski.

Sharland collected a great pass from Castro and then released Ceccoli with a superb cross. The stand-in skipper controlled the ball expertly before flicking with all the ease in the world, past ex-Wolves goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi who was Power's custodian on the night.

Castro, who joined the Wolves from

Canberra Cosmos at the start of the season, was instrumental in every move involving the Wolves and played what was easily his best game for the champions so far this season. His industry and skill in the midfield made up for the lack of pace from Stuart Young who was responsible for a good number of misses by the home side.

Power must rue all the wasted chances to grab an equaliser, if not win the match, with the clearest of them being David Barrett's header in the 92nd minute, which hit the post.

Power's striker, the hardworking Luke Roodenburg also frittered away a pair of chances to equalise but was denied on both occasions by the fine form of Anastasiadis, who also saved from daredevil striker, Ahmad Elrich. Sharland, obviously caught out by his inexperience, wasted another glorious chance at the other end in the second half to put the game beyond the visitors when he shot wide from 10 meters in front of goal.

David Mitchell, Power's coach admitted that his side were punished for throwing away a game they had a very good chance of winning. "We needed to clear that cross, but didn't and paid the price. Our lead up was fine, but our final ball left a lot to be desired."



Alvin Ceccoli: Wolves' stand-in skipper and matchwinner.



# Alex Brosque:

## Marconi's red-hot sensation

By Mark Stavroulakis

**A**t the tender age of 18, young Marconi star Alex Brosque has already headlined himself as a future star for Australian football. Fairfield-born and bred, Brosque has been apart of the Marconi setup for almost six years now.

Southern Districts (Marconi's then-feeder club) was the side Alex was with for four years. It was there people realized this youngster had potential in the game.

"I really enjoyed my time at Southern as it gave me first hand experience of top level football in my age group. I stayed there for four years ending up with the U16's side, overall it was the club that gave me my first opportunity to play football," said the Stallions star.

Through his younger seasons, young Alex also made an appearance for the U14 NSW State side in the National Titles, this was Brosque's first real honor in his career.

"It was an honor being selected for my state, it gave me more confidence as a player as I was playing against the best players across Australia," said the former NSW player.

Once Brosque finished his four-year relationship with Southern District, Big Brother club, Marconi, picked up the youngster for their Colts and Youth side.

"After the U16's at Southern, I had to move onto bigger and better things, Marconi were keeping a close watch on me and finally gave me my call-up for the Colts side. I was really excited about playing National Youth League football against top quality players. I spent one year in the Marconi Colts side, even though we didn't do so well, it gave me much needed experience as a player. Through the year I also made appearances for the Youth side, which was an even bigger step.

Overall it was the best preparation for me before I made the jump to the AIS," said Brosque.

The AIS has been a soccer haven for many potential Australian Youngsters.

Players such as Mark Viduka, Ned Zelic, Craig Moore, Josip Skoko and the list goes on were past AIS graduates. Young Brosque was next in line to gain a taste of what it was like to be apart of the best institute in Australia.

"It was luck I guess that I landed a scholarship at the AIS as we had a game against them with the Marconi Youth side. I played well in that match, after the game, AIS head coach Steve O'Connor approached me and asked if I wanted to trial for the week.

I was on a high, I impressed him so much at the trials that he offered me a year's scholarship. The whole setup was awesome, the training was first class and the coaching was brilliant, I couldn't

have asked for a better way of preparing myself for first team football in the National League.

The whole institute is focused on soccer, twenty-four seven, its without a doubt the best thing I did at the time," said the AIS graduate.

The year went and Alex's scholarship had ended in December 2001, already under a 2-year contract with the Stallions, the youngster was prepared to stake his claim in the 1st team squad. The AIS had matured and nurtured the youngster into a professional, and it was only time until his call-up for Lee Sterry's first grade side was due. "When I returned to the Stallions after my stint at the AIS, I was at full strength, working hard and pushing for first grade selection," said the former Westfields student.

Young Brosque's big day came when he was selected in the squad of sixteen in the round 9 home clash against Newcastle.

"It was amazing, just hearing my name on the speakers was unbelievable. A couple of years back I was a spectator watching Marconi play, now I was playing. I played the final 20 minutes where we ended up drawing one-all.

My overall opinion of the game was that it was much quicker and faster to what I was used to, but I was happy to get my debut for the side," said the excited striker.

Soon after his first appearance for the Stallions, spectators realized this youngster was ready to explode, with his classy touches and smart runs up and down the park, the tall lad made an immediate impact on the National League.

After his second match against the Force in Adelaide, the 18-year-old was given his big chance to partake in his first ever derby clash with the Olympic Sharks. The events that followed after this match changed the youngster's life forever. The Stallions ended up winning 1-0 thanks to the goal of super sub, Alex Brosque.

"The game against Olympic will always be the highlight of my career. I had come on with twenty minutes to go, everyone thought that the game would remain scoreless, me included. However, with two minutes to spare, I received a brilliant long ball from Costanzo and slotted the ball into the Sharks net.

I couldn't believe it, I was lost for words. We had won the match, we got the three points, and it was my first ever goal for the club," said the lucky goal scorer.

From that game on, young Brosque fired his way to the starting eleven. A side full of young talented players, as well as experi-



Alex Brosque: "The game against Olympic Sharks will always be the highlight of my career."

enced ones, young Brosque believes the Stallions have what it takes to finish in the top 6.

"We have proved many critics wrong, not many people thought we'd end up in the top 6 but we have.

We work really well as a team, having a good experienced back line, along with a strong attack. For me, playing with experienced players only betters my performance. Lee Sterry has also been very influential to the side, always doing his best in making the team go that

one step better," said Alex.

One big dream Alex hopes one day will come true, is pulling on that green and gold jersey of Australia. With his constant appearances for the Stallions, everyone

is watching Alex, and that includes U20's coach Ange Postecoglou.

"My goal this year apart from establishing myself as a first team member for Marconi, is to get a call-up for the next U20's camp.

Representing Australia would be the highest honor for myself,

hopefully with the more appearances I gain with the Stallions, the better my chances will be in getting a call-up," said the hopeful star.

The young gun also hopes that one day, he could play professionally overseas, in either the English or Spanish Leagues. "Playing football overseas is what I want to do in a couple of years time.

At this stage, I am very happy at Marconi and I would love to spend another two seasons here in Australia. I want to gain more experience as a player here before I go anywhere else.

In saying that, my long-term goal is to make a living out the game, and Europe is the best place to do it as a footballer," ended Brosque.



Lee Sterry: Marconi's hardworking coach who gave Alex his big break.





# 'Australian Soccer at this moment ... is dead'

By Tim Caimakamis

Last Friday evening Newcastle United (UK) Chairman, Mr Freddy Shepherd made the trip to Newcastle Australia to make a presentation to the local NSL Club on their vision and expansion into the Pacific region.

Newcastle United are represented in Australia by Proactive Sports Group Plc, one of the largest and complete sports management consultant firms. Accompanying Mr. Shepherd is PSG's chief executive Paul Stretford.

Upon completion of their meeting, the gentlemen were invited to attend the NSL match between Newcastle United (Aus) and the Northern Spirit (now controlled by Glasgow Rangers). Pressed for time, Freddy escaped the formalities long enough to gladly and enthusiastically enlighten us of some of his views on football pertaining to his club.

**Q. Mr. Shepherd, I understand you lived in Australia when you were younger?**

A. "I came to Australia when I was 12, and I had my 21st birthday here, (Freddy's formative years. I suggest he is therefore 'Aussie and he laughs')."

**Q. Where in Australia?**

A. "I lived in Rose Bay (harbour-side suburb of eastern Sydney), as well as having a weekend house at Speers Point (a suburb of Newcastle on the shore of Lake Macquarie). I've been to have a look at it (the weekend) and it's still there. Newcastle hasn't changed much".

**Q. I understand that the purpose of this trip is to expand the brand name "Newcastle United"?**

A. "We are looking to enhance the name in the Pacific basin and are going to open an office in Sydney".

Mr Shepherd then elaborated...

"It's no secret, that we tried to buy Carlton with Peter Jeffs, but unfortunately it wasn't a deal that we could do and they ceased shortly afterwards. We are still interested in the Australia; it's a huge market for soccer".

"It's been setback by not getting in the world cup (this time around), but I think it needs to shake itself down and come out fighting. The lack of confidence, you can feel it here, yet it's confidence that is needed to drive the new position forward and we're glad that there is going to be a restructure, because in our humble opinion it needs it, badly. The present format just isn't working (to its potential) and you don't have the confidence of the sponsors, which is badly needed at this moment as well as a broadcaster who needs to be brought onboard more".

**Q. The existing media have strong links in other sports; it may take overseas influence to make them change and give soccer a better platform?**

A. Well I agree, that's why I think that we can help from overseas, the likes of Rangers, Leeds and Newcastle etc can invest and advise in the background and do nothing but promote the game. It's where the game can be taken forward because then the sponsors will take us seriously, for at the moment we're not.

No football league in this world can exist without sponsors, they can run but they can't survive. I think Australian soc-

cer at this minute (and this is my own opinion), is dead, it just hasn't been buried yet. It needs to be revived, given oxygen and get going again; it needs energy and drive. The people at Soccer Australia and the NSL need to get moving and sort it out quickly, otherwise they will go past the point of no return and will be buried.

**Q. Are you looking to solely own a club or have a sistership relationship?**

A. "We will consider both. With Newcastle (Aus), Mr Constantine has made it clear that he wants to retain ownership, surely in the short term; in the long term, who knows what happens, but I think we can help Newcastle and without being bigheaded, I think it is a case of the big Newcastle helping the little Newcastle. I think we could really help here".

**Q. Are you aware of the history of soccer in Newcastle?**

A. "I am aware of the recent history especially about the Breakers". (I then elucidated to Mr. Shepherd pertaining to Newcastle's and the Northern NSW Soccer Federation history; the similarities with Newcastle-upon-Tyne in terms of the links, names, colours etc).

**Q. The two cities have much in common?**

A. "Both cities are/were steel towns, both have ports and a coal mining history. They both have strong working class communities; they have a lot going for each other and can help each other".

**Q. You met today with the chairman of "Little Newcastle United" Mr Constantine, was it fruitful?**

A. "Very much so, and I think we can progress on it. He has made his position quite clear that he wants to retain ownership, nothing wrong with that. He wants to do a formal linkup with a formal agreement with both clubs which we haven't got a problem with and if we can agree, who knows we could even do pre-season here, and bring a team out a play a couple of friendlies".

**Q. You are aware of the problems with**

**the NSL at the moment. Do you think it is feasible for Soccer Australia to develop/implement their own version of a Premier League?**

A. "I'd think it should have to be on the lines modelled on the EPL. I'm not saying it the best in the world, but I think it's a simplified version of the Italian and Spanish leagues. Now I'm not telling them how to sell eggs here, but I think they can do worse than copy the English system. At the moment I think the tail wags the dog here, were it should be the other way around.

The professionals should be telling Soccer Australia what to do, not S.A. telling the professionals what to do. They can do it much better than the other way around. If they get that sorted out, like in England where the Premier League is very strong, though it's still a member of the F.A. So let both do what they do best.

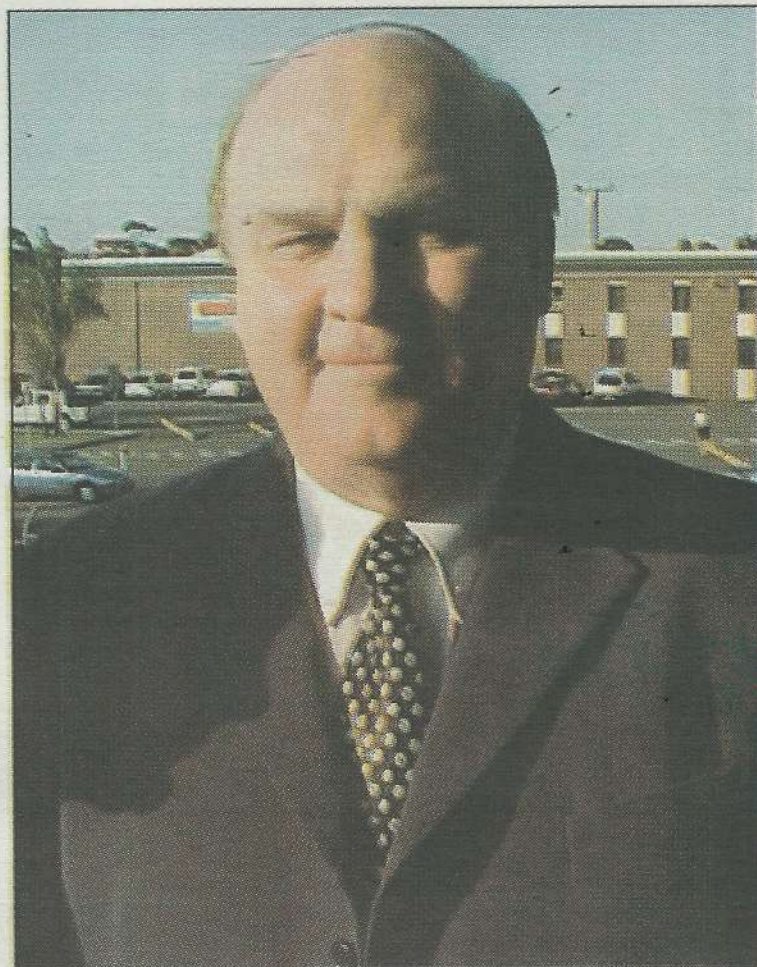
Let the NSL be separate and run the league and let S.A. be the governing body, setting the rules and enhancing the community, its what they're better at, but don't (S.A.) get mixed up in business because it doesn't work, we have seen that in the past".

**Q. Do you think its important that officials (at both club and federation level) have experience or an aptitude for Soccer?**

A. "Once again, I'm not here to tell Australia how to run itself and put its house in order, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating and if you look at the mess it's in now, you've got to start at the top, because a fish always rots from the head down.

Perhaps you should be looking at football people, because if you haven't got the expertise at the moment, which in my opinion they haven't, I think they may need to bring it in.

Something needs to be done, because at this moment and once again I don't want people to think I'm telling them what to do, they need to bring in the expertise to get thing running properly efficiently with



Freddy Shepherd: "The present format isn't just working."

people that have the love, energy and drive for the game to carry it out".

**ON NEWCASTLE UNITED IN ENGLAND**

**Q. Your family has been involved with the club a long time, what is the recent history?**

A. "I joined the board of directors and became deputy chairman in 1991. We listed on stock exchange in 1997. It's now the 8th biggest football club in the world. Everybody has heard of Newcastle United in England and I'm sure they will now of Newcastle United here in the future".

**Q. We hear reports here of the admiration of Bobby Robson in Newcastle?**

A. "He is very enthusiastic and his experience is unbelievable, he is an elder statesman of world football without a doubt. Wherever he goes, he's always had a great record in world football and has done the lot.

Even at 69 years of age, he still trains every day, so you're not going to find much better than Bobby Robson".



Proactive Sports Group CEO, Paul Stretford (left), Newcastle United's Australian Representative with Shepherd.

**Q. How is the St. James surface coming along?**

A. Its being changed as we talk (Freddy smirks).

**Q. There has been talk (by soccer identities in Newcastle Australia) that Alan Shearer might retire from the EPL?**

A. "Well that is news to me. He is only 31, and obviously he's got another four seasons to go, so I'm sure its news to him as well".

**Q. Newcastle has one of the most successful and rare Greek exports in Nikos Dabizas as evidenced by his extended run with the club. How is he viewed in England?**

A. "Nikos is now the first choice centre-back, which he has been for the last two to three years. He has been with us a long time, is now into his second contract with Newcastle, and is the first player chosen for the Greek national team. He loves it in Newcastle and has settled in very well, the kids enjoy the school, so if anybody asked me how long will Nick be there (at the club), I would say a very long time".

**Q. Laurent Robert has had an influential season so far?**

A. "He has had a great season and I think it was important (he do so) as we paid £10,000,000 for him. With him and Solano on the wings, it gives us a better balance as opposed to last year where we only had Solano to supply Shearer, now with Robert, it gives us an extra dimension and that's why we're joint top of the league".

**Q. The F.A. poached your youth academy director last week?**

A. "He was with us for four years. At last count, we had 280 applications so I don't think it will be a problem finding a replacement".

**Q. Were you aware of the interest in England for the local Newcastle United with approx 15% of merchandise sales indicated to be sent to fanatical fans in the UK?**

A. "No, I wasn't aware of the fact, but doesn't indicate a positive future. Hey Paul, maybe we could claim a commission (he laughingly joked as he stood from the table)".

**Due to official commitments, Mr. Shepherd bid farewell as he was escorted to a corporate box, ever keen to share himself with all present.**





Paul Okon: Unfairly-treated!

# Letters to the Editor

## Farina needs a clean slate now

Dear Sir,

I am writing about the appointment of a new Socceroos coach. Well people were saying Frank Farina was going to get it. Some others said bring back Rale Rasic as coach. Why don't we just bring the dead to play for us?

We have to look to the future. All Farina needs now are some proper assistants and some quality time with the boys. It has always been the Socceroos problem that they don't have enough time together.

Soccer Australia must set up a rule which says that the Socceroos must be together every say three months. When a World Cup qualifier is on, let's say about four months together so they can't complain about not having enough time.

Let's say there should also be a selection panel to pick the teams. Not just two Joe Blows from off the street. This will produce the best Socceroos' side. There will be no favouritism about who gets picked and every one will be happy.

Also, something must be done to get corrupt people out of Soccer Australia. Jeff Kennett looks like the man to fix up Soccer in Australia. He has shown all Australians what a quality leader he has been for his state. Why not give him a chance?

If he takes over then all the people in Soccer Australia wont have any jobs left and that's why Soccer Australia members don't want him in.

We can't wait for another four years to see the same thing happen. Action must be taken swiftly. Australia needs to make the World Cup.

Just once more so people will stop going on about the '74 team and how they were the best that Australia will ever have. Ciao

Burim Sulemani,  
Dandenong, VIC.



Frank Farina: New responsibilities in the next four years.

## OKON'S MISPLACED WOLF CRYING

Dear Sir,

Please permit me to comment on the recent transfer of Australia's captain Paul Okon from Middlesbrough to Watford and his tirade that accompanied it. True that Okon was hardly given a look-in at Boro by the new Pommie coach Steve McClaren and after a rather frustrating waiting period in which he hoped things would work out, they never did.

Okon had to move of course to save his career, but the issue still remains the Okon should actually take some blame for his plight at Middlesbrough. The Aussie skipper has never really been able to hold down a place in all the clubs he has been in Europe.

It was the same story at Lazio, Fiorentina and unto Boro. If it wasn't a groin, Okon was either suffering from a knee, ankle and some other million-and-one complaints.

In as much as one would one to give him credit for his selfless service to Australia whenever he was

called on, the truth must be told that Okon's club career in the past six years he has been in Europe has been a catalogue of worries.

His talents as a player of class have somewhat been blighted by injury and few clubs in the big-spending leagues of Europe can remain patient in the face of such prolonged lay-off Aucklands.

Methink it's better Okon plies his trade in the less-demanding English first division, cos as far as the bigger clubs of the premiership are concerned, a player is only useful enough if they can remain on their feet - injury free, that is.

If the truth must be told, it was Boro that never got real value for their investment in Okon and not the other round.

This is wishing him luck in his new abode.  
Cheers.

Miron Appleby,  
Kenmore, QLD.

## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH AUCKLAND KINGZ?

Dear Sir,

It must be a source of great worry to all soccer-loving fans in New Zealand who have devoted time and emotions to the exploits of the Auckland Kingz, how they have consistently under performed.

It is a big worry that we all have spent sleepless nights trying to dream of the future greatness of our side, all to no avail.

We have all hoped and prayed that the Kingz would one day rank up there as one of the leading lights of the NSL, but it has never really happened.

What we've got in return are poor results and heartbreaking performances which have crushed our hopes and made it a hopeless task being a Kingz fan.

What is even more worrying is the fact that the Kingz cannot seem to win at home. It has been a fruitless thing now to expect them to record wins at the Ericsson sta-



Wynton Rufer: Icon of New Zealand Soccer.

dium - because they simply are incapable of doing so. The fact that they are bottom of the pile is just a mere consequence of this inability to make their home base impregnable.

It's high time something drastic is done to save the sinking ship called the Auckland Kingz. The recent resignation of respected Wynton Rufer from the club should be seen as a catastrophe which should be a source of concern to all lovers of the club.

Rufer represented the Kiwi shining light and beacon of hope not only at the club, but also in international soccer. For him to be treated so shabbily by a club he served selflessly, only reminds one of a doomed man digging his own grave.

Hope it's not too late to save the Kingz.

Alf Mitchell,  
Charleston, SA.

## Get Real, SBS

Dear Sir,

Years ago, Australian TV was dominated with American programs many second rate. it was known as "the cultural cringe" because the Australian public preferred to watch almost anything foreign in preference to Australian made which was perceived as second rate. This era is long past but at SBS Soccer the cultural cringe (soccer style) lives on.

Since the failure to qualify for Japan/Korea 2002 the SBS Soccer think tank has persisted with the theory that the shortcoming of Oz Soccer players is the reason for failure to qualify since 1974.

Let us examine the pedigree of many of the teams that have qualified for Japan/Korea 2002.

(1) South Korea have been at nearly every World Cup Final since 1954. They have yet to win ONE GAME despite countless appearances at World Cup Finals. Think of more than one or two Korean player who has played at the highest level in Europe since 1954.

(2) There are compelling commercial reasons for European clubs to sign up Japan's best players. With the exception of the erratic Hidetoshi Nakata, all others have failed to make the grade even at lower clubs. While Reid is about to sign for Bolton Wanderers one of Japan's World Cup players is being released by Bolton because he is just not good enough.

The Brazilian influence on Japanese Soccer has not delivered any tangible results.

(3) Very few Russian players are considered good enough to play in Europe's best Leagues.

The highly rated Sergei Rebrov at Spurs is in and out of the first team because of indifferent form.

Spurs were toying with idea of buying Viduka instead of Rebrov before Leeds stepped in. No prizes for guessing which player has been more successful in the Premier League.

(4) Poland have re-emerged onto the world cup stage. Their best player is an African with Polish citizenship. Other than Liverpool's goalkeeper how many polish players are playing with top European clubs.

(5) Slovenia have many people have heard of the country let alone their Football team or its star players.

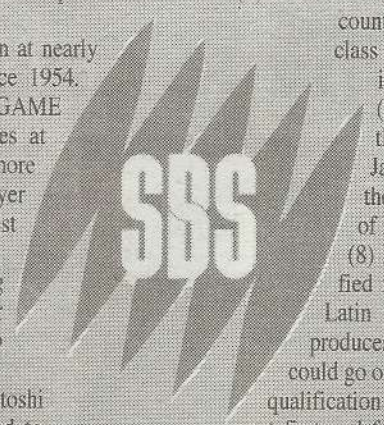
(6) Without doubt Turkey is a fanatical football country but the amount of world class players Turkey has produced is negligible.

(7) The most surprised people that Belgium qualified for Japan/Korea were the Belgians themselves. Such is the standing of Belgium football these days.

(8) Mexico has once again qualified for the World Cup finals. By Latin American standards Mexico produces few World class players. I could go on and on but the points is clear qualification for the World Cup Finals is not first and foremost dependent on having world class players. There are countless other factors that come into play.

Oz Soccer players have their shortcomings without doubt. There is always room for improvement but the simplistic arguments put up by the SBS Soccer think tank do not stack up.

R. Melor,  
Bondi. NSW.





# OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

## DIXIE THE DEAN OF ADELAIDE SOCCER

Former Scottish international, Glasgow Celtic and Adelaide City striker, John (Dixie) Deans is so infatuated with Adelaide that he intends to become a permanent resident of South Australia.

Deans, currently on holiday here with his wife Pat, daughter Joanne, son John and daughter in law Katie and grandson Jack, are soaking up local hospitality.

The Deans clan is visiting Dixie's youngest son Paul and his wife Madeline, who have lived in Adelaide for the past two and a half years.

Those endearing feelings which Deans holds for Adelaide and its people are wholeheartedly reciprocated, particularly within the soccer community.

And, no wonder, because Deans, described by former team mate, now City coach, Zoran Matic, as a "living treasure" was unquestionably Adelaide City's most marketable, flamboyant and talented striker ever to be imported by the club.

Deans, after ending his Scottish career, was brought to Adelaide on the recommendation of legendary Celtic manager Jock Stein.

City secretary, the late Carmen Picarello, went to Scotland to recruit Deans as the club's first import in the inaugural NSL (Philips League) season in 1977.

Despite missing the first seven games of the season, Deans top the NSL goalscoring list with 16 goals in 19 matches.

John Perin, a former City team mate of Deans during that era, said, "People here in Adelaide still hold Dixie Deans on a pedestal and talk about him in raptures."

"Dixie was such a dynamic forward that he would boost our home gates by at least a thousand every time he played at the Olympic Sports Field," Perin recalled.

Deans said he treasured fond memories of his four and a half seasons with Adelaide City.

"I have a great love for Adelaide and the time I spent here," Deans said. "It's fabulous to come here from 12,000 miles away and find that people still talk about you."

There was no shortage of talk when Deans was the subject of a "Roast" last Monday night when ex-City colleagues and West Adelaide Hellas opponents shoved the star striker down a rocky memory lane.

Deans's off field antics were as legendary as his memorable feats during his 53 NSL games when he netted 30 goals.

His liking for the odd vodka or three was the cause of much consternation among the City officials, particularly Carmen Picarello.

"I remember I was at a wedding the Saturday night before we played Mooroolbark and Carmen, God rest his soul, said, 'Cool it with the drink, wee man,'" Deans fondly recalled.

"Carmen was so worried I would have a stinker of a game, but I scored four goals and we won 10-1."

"We had a great team in those days with John Perin, Frank Lister, the great Agenor Muniz, John Nyskohus, Buggy Nyskohus, Zoran Matic and the rest," Deans said.

"All of the boys, we were such great pals and it showed in the way we played."

"The atmosphere at the derbies with West Adelaide was tremendous and a particular match I remember was the one against Sydney City in Sydney when Rale Rasic was coach."

"We were 2-0 down at half time, but we rallied to win 3-2 and I got three goals."

That was one of two successive NSL hat-tricks for the tricky, high leaping forward, who, to this day, shares the honour with Gary Cole as the only players to have achieved the feat of banging in three goals in consecutive games.

The first "Juventus-Hellas" derby was particularly memorable and satisfying for the impish Deans because the West Adelaide side included fellow Scottish guest player Graeme Souness, now manager of Blackburn Rovers.

City won 4-1 with Deans opening the scoring with a trade-mark leaping header which defied his small stature (172cm).

But, Deans was not short on jokes, tricks or pranks in and around the dressing rooms to keep his colleagues chuckling or his coach, Edmund Kreft wondering.

Like the time he walked into the rooms on a match day wearing a neck brace, or the time he went missing just before the change over flight from Sydney to Newcastle.

As the City players and support staff walked across the tarmac to the light aircraft, Kreft asked in concern, "Where's Dixie?"

"Come on lads," shouted a voice from the shadowy figure seated in the cockpit. "It was, of course, self appointed pilot, 'Captain Dixie.'"

No one was safe from the practical joker. At a café, Gary Marocchi left his coat hanging over the back of his chair while he went to the salad bar.

During Marocchi's absence Deans filled the coat pockets with knives, forks, spoons and pepper and salt shakers.

When the Adelaide City players got up to leave Marocchi's pockets were jangling and Deans called over the waiter saying, "Look what this man's got in his pockets."

Deans brought joy and a huge crowd to Hindmarsh Stadium when he returned here on a holiday in 1990 to play in a friendly reunion game. He stuck to the script by scoring and by celebrating in his customary fashion of high-fiving the fans behind the goal.

Motherwell, and Luton Town were the other clubs Deans graced aside from Celtic and Adelaide City, completing a fabulous career that included two games for Scotland with the spoils including three Scottish titles, two Scottish Cups and one League Cup.

Glasgow Celtic inducted Deans into its Hall of Fame last year - a wonderful accolade from the club that he still serves in a public relations capacity. His task on match days is to circulate the corporate boxes, ensuring that the customers are happy and content.

That delightful job could soon come to an end because Deans has sold the lease hold on his two Glasgow hotels and entered the ranks of the semi-retired.

Adelaide looms as the next home for Dixie and his family. The red carpet is ready to be unrolled.

### DIRECT INFO

Oceania, regarded by many as a minnow in the giant FIFA ocean, is not really a ripple on the World's waters.

Con Michalakos of Adelaide suburb Athelstone, brainstormed the history of the region

ABSWS's SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, former Australian international and ex-Adelaide City Force midfielder and coach, John Perin and Peter Miller, can be heard on the SRPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Perin and Crisp are joined by SA and Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks each Sunday for the SRPH SOS (Soccer on Sunday) program from 8.30am-9.30am when the latest local, overseas and interstate scores are aired along with the fast-breaking news, views and interviews.



On Song - At a recording session - From Left - Chris Kent, John Nyskohus & Dixie Deans.

and concluded that two senior World Cup finals appearances and a World Youth Cup final against Brazil were headline achievements.

And, Con uncovered many other notable happenings at various levels that should be powerful selling points when the vexed issue of direct qualification for Oceania is determined.

1. Australia made it through to the World Cup finals in 1974 via a rough and rugged road.

2. New Zealand ploughed through similar tough terrain to qualify for a 1982 shot at soccer's Holy Grail.

3. Australia successfully staged the 1981 and 1993 World Youth tournaments and blazed through to the semi-finals.

4. New Zealand flew the Oceania flag by staging the 1999 junior tournament, when Australia reached the final against Brazil.

5. Oceania was granted one place in the Olympics, compared to a half a place from 32 World Cup places.

6. Australia surged through to the quarter-finals of the Korea Olympics in 1988.

7. The Socceroos went one better in the Barcelona 92' Olympics by making the semi-finals.

8. In November 1993, Australia took on the Diego Maradona inspired Argentina for a World Cup final place and missed out by a single goal. Who could forget the stirring 1-1 draw before a record Sydney Football Stadium crowd when the brothers Vidmar - Tony and Aurelio - combined to net the Socceroo goal?

9. Australia made the final of the 1997 Confederations Cup.

10. New Zealand acquitted itself admirably at the 1999 Confederations Cup.

11. South Melbourne took on the big boys in the 2000 World Club tournament.

12. Australia did well in the 2001 Confederations Cup series.

### FORCE CEO GOES

Jeff Widera has quit as chief executive officer of Adelaide City Force.

Widera ended his seven-month reign on amicable terms saying, "I wish the club well. 'I would like to have seen through some of the initiatives we had put in place."

"It was a very challenging role given the severe financial restraints," Widera said.

City president Bob D'Ottavi said the club's immediate future was secure.

D'Ottavi, through his company, Best Bricks and Pavers, has given Soccer Australia financial guarantees for three years.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SUMMER SERIES ROUND 1

### GROUP A

Blue Eagles 3 (Sergi 2, Pirone) Cumberland Foxes 0. Best - Blue Eagles: Zito, Pirone, Sergi; Cumberland: Billingham, Margaritis, Higgins. Adelaide Galaxy 9 (Tsekini3, Westervelt 2, Dawes, Karitvelis, Forde, Ferreira) Cobras 1 (Laura). Best - Galaxy: Karitvelis, Ferreira, D. Stam.

### GROUP B

White City 2 (S. Stam, Petrov) Adelaide City 5 (Mooney, Pellegrino, Saraceno, Saric, Sancilio). Best - White City: Mobedi, Beil, M. Menechella; Adelaide City: Saraceno, Budin, I. Paris.

### GROUP E

Para Hills Knights 0. Metro Stars 2 (Sordillo, R. Moore). Best - Para Hills: M. Moore, Beltrame, Waine; Metro Stars: T. Scalzi, Day, Antoniou. Modbury Jets 0 Croydon Kings 1 (M. Woods). Best - Modbury Jets: Donovan, White, Stuart; Croydon Kings: Porter, M. Woods, Richardson. Raiders v Hills Hawks (Postponed), Noarlunga v Pirates (Postponed), Panthers v Western Strikers (Postponed), Enfield Falcons v Campbelltown (Postponed).



From left, John Nyskohus & Dixie Deans.

## Spirit youngsters off to UK

Four Northern Spirit youth team players leave for Europe this week for a three-week development stint at three of the UK's biggest clubs - Scottish giants Rangers as well as English Premier League clubs Everton and Blackburn Rovers.

Alex Wilkinson, Steven Baveas, Sean Walsh and Ben Stevens will play football during their three-week journey and return to Northern Spirit better players for the experience.

The development scheme is a joint initiative between Northern Spirit and its Scottish owners Rangers

with Everton and Blackburn joining the scheme thanks to its ties with Rangers through coaches Walter Smith and Graeme Souness, who are both former Rangers legends.

It is designed to expose young Northern Spirit players to the full-professional set ups enjoyed by the biggest clubs in the UK to help them develop their games and intensify their thirst for success.

None of the four players, who all represented Australia

at the U17 level (Joeys) last year, are able to stay at either of the three clubs due to new FIFA laws that prohibit international transfers for players under the age of 18.

"The scheme has been set up to help our youngsters develop into better players," said Northern Spirit Director of Football Bill Collins. "They will be exposed to another level of professionalism and they will learn a lot by just training and being around the players at these clubs."

"They will not only improve their skills through exposure to different training techniques but they will learn all about how to conduct themselves and be a true professional off the field as well. It is a tremendous opportunity for the kids."

The scheme allows for Northern Spirit players to go to the UK three a year with the next wave expected to go to Europe in March-April.

All four players currently train with the Northern Spirit first grade squad twice a week as well as their youth team training and playing commitments.



Alex Wilkinson: Going on the trip.



Ben Stevens: Going on the trip.



# Duggary returns from Muscat mauling

French international striker, Christophe Duggary returned to action last week for the first time since being injured in the November 11 friendly between France and Australia at the MCG in Melbourne.

It was Duggary's first appearance in two months and completes his recovery from knee ligament damage which he picked up in the game at the MCG which ended 1-1. Duggary, 29, had been sidelined with the injury in a heavy challenge from Australian defender, Kevin Muscat.

Muscat's challenge sparked a free-for-all brawl on the pitch and drew a lot of criticism from the French contingent. French coach Roger Lemerre described the challenge as "an act of brutality", while goalkeeper Fabien Barthez said: "It's a shame that Duggary was on the receiving end of that nasty tackle. 'It was very silly.'"

Muscat, who plays for Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English first division denied any malicious intent in the tackle.

Duggary's club, Bordeaux called for compensation and criticised France for travelling half way round the world for the match.

But he played for 85 minutes for Bordeaux in a First Division match last week.

Though he was short of top form in the 2-2 draw with Lille, Duggary was pleased with his contribution. "It wasn't too bad, even though I



Kevin Muscat(second left) at the receiving end of a mass brawl after his tackle on French player, Christophe Duggary in last November's friendly at the MCG.

was in a bit of pain at the end," Duggary said.

"On the physical front it was fine. But I need to play more matches to get my rhythm back and move faster around the pitch."

Duggary, with 47 caps has been plagued by injuries throughout his career.

With his comeback now complete, the ex-Juventus star is now in contention for a World Cup place

after coming through his first match in three months.

He scored France's first goal in the 1998 World Cup which they eventually went on to win, beating Brazil 3-0 in the final.

## Culina on the defence again

Sydney United coach, Branko Culina last week denied claims made by an article in a Sydney-based newspaper in which he was said to have described Newcastle United as "the worst outfit he has seen this season".

While the article stated that Culina made the comments, another one from the club during the week claimed Culina saying they were entirely untrue "The claims made by the article are absolutely untrue and I categorically deny making such comments during this

week.

"My opinion of Newcastle United is that they are where they are, due to hard work and determination, something I have used as an example for my players.

In no way was I criticizing their achievements", said Culina.

The latest denial from Culina is coming just weeks after a similar refutation from him over statements he allegedly made that Northern Spirit - another NSL clubside - were not guaranteed any long term future in the league.

## Teenage songstress sings for Power

Parramatta Power will continue its practice of helping expose young artists when this weekend, it features Delta Goodrem. The 17 year-old budding star will have the chance to perform her latest single, I don't Care and also the National Anthem before the main game against Newcastle United.

Delta will perform her single and the National Anthem before the main game kicks off at 6.30pm.

The Power has already featured Ajaqa, Miss Radio and Fox Fire Four earlier in the season as part of its entertainment line up.

Delta, of Glenhaven in Sydney's northwest, believes it's a great opportunity to sing in front of a live audience and develop her performing skills.

"It's special because I am singing for a local audience and for the local team," she said. "I am honoured to be singing the National Anthem at the Power game."

Parramatta Power ground announcer and 96.1FM breakfast host Jo Abi has been the inspiration behind introducing the local acts. Her connection with record compa-



Delta Goodrem

nies and music managers has added to the impressive line up.

Power General Manager, Angela Travis, said the Club had set a goal to provide quality entertainment at all home games.

"We've been very lucky to have had such talented people performing at our games," she said. "Jo has worked very hard on all the acts and having her as part of the team has been beneficial. Entertainment is a very important part of any event."

## American set-up thrills Sermanni

By Graham Cooke

There is no room for emotional attachments in American soccer politics, the assistant coach of the country's champion women's club, Tom Sermanni, says.

"The big difference between the soccer set-up here and in America is the way it is financed," he said on holiday in Canberra last week. "The Americans do put a lot of resources into sport, and there are plenty of people willing to invest."

"But the moment it doesn't look like working out, they will withdraw their money. Clubs, and the entire women's competition, would collapse overnight if it were thought it was not a successful proposition."

There is little danger of that. Sermanni's club, the Bay Area Cyber Rays, based in San Jose,

California, had a crowd of 35,000 at their inaugural match and 22,000 attended the grand final, even though it was between Cyber Rays and Atlanta and staged in Boston.

Sermanni, who left the Canberra Cosmos to go to the United States a year ago, said the women's final had a slightly bigger attendance than the men's, which was also staged in Boston. "There's no doubt the women's game is bigger, and that is all to do with the fact the United States is No. 1 in the world," he said.

However it was Australian Julie Murray who stole the show, scoring 12 goals for Cyber Rays during the season, and taking the title of Most Valuable Player in the finals series.

"We were shocked when Julie said she did not want to play another season", he said. "But we've already got her replacement, the Brazilian Pretinha, who we've traded from the Washington

Freedom.

Despite the initial success league officials are holding back on expansion plans. "It will be the same format, the same eight teams, in the coming season", Sermanni said. "If we have another good season, they will look at expanding to 10, but they are really afraid of over-stretching themselves both financially, and with player quality."

"Players could be a problem in the future, with fully professional leagues planned for Britain and other European countries".

The future of the Cyber Rays seems assured, however, with a deal being done with the San Jose Council for the team to remain in the city for the next five years. "We are also going to change our name from Bay Area to San Jose", he said. "Now that we've won the league, they are happy to be associated with us".

"And his own plans? 'I'm returning as assistant coach, but I would be surprised if I were still in that position in a year's time. I've broken into the league, I'm known and I want a head coach's job somewhere'."



(L-R) Allison Sermanni, her husband Tom and former national women's coach Chris Tanzey having tea recently.

## LAZZARI QUILTS BELCONNEN IN ANGER

By Graham Cooke

Last season's NSW Premier League Player of the Year, Steve Lazzari, has quit the Belconnen Blue Devils after a reported dispute with coach Lino Fiorese.

A terse statement by the Blue Devils at the end of last week gave no reason for the split and carried a quote from Fiorese stating the star striker had been a valuable asset to the club. "We will miss him, yet it will give the opportunity for the development of up-and-coming new strikers," the coach said.

However, club sources said it was a long-running row between the two that led to the parting of the ways. Lazzari, who scored 15 goals last season, has not been an automatic starting choice in this campaign. In all he has played 27 Premier League games for 19 goals over two seasons.

The dispute has reportedly resulted from a difference of opinion over Lazzari's contribution to the team. Fiorese wants strikers who work hard off the ball; Lazzari believes that as long as the goals flow, the striker is doing his job.

His departure is bad news for Belconnen who have a ready-made Elia Saloum to replace Lazzari in the long-term casualty list with a knee injury.



Steve Lazzari



# New President for NSW Soccer Federation



**T**HE NSW SOCCER Federation's long-serving President, Mr Peter Gray, who has held this powerful position for almost 11 consecutive years, will at the end of the month retire completely from Soccer and move residence up to the Gold Coast.

At the Federation's Elections, set down for 30th of January, two candidates will be standing to take over the reins from Mr Gray.

The Presidential candidates are Tom Doumanis and Tony Labbozzetta.

The coming Elections already could promise to be one of the most serious, and heatedly contested ever staged, in the history of NSW.

Many Clubs in recent years have become totally disgruntled with the Federations' overall policies and administration.

The Clubs of NSW are not only demanding a change, but a revitalised management and direction from Board level.

**S**UTHERLAND's President, Mr Richard May, one of the prominent identities in NSW's club Soccer, and who will step up to stand at the Elections for a Directorship on the State's Board, stated:

"After receiving notice of the resignation of the President of NSW Soccer Federation Mr Peter Gray, a number of Premier League Club Presidents met to discuss a suitable replacement.

"The name of Mr Tony Labbozzetta was put forward and it was decided to approach him on this issue and his stance.

"These same Presidents then met with Labbozzetta to

discuss his possible nomination, as well as to seek his view of bringing the code forward.

"I would like to reiterate here and now, that the approach was made by the clubs and not by Mr Labbozzetta, for him to stand as the NSW President."

Mr May then went on to elaborate:

"After indicating his willingness to accept the nomination, it was then decided that all nominees be invited to address the Premier League Forum.

"At this time, the question was asked, if Mr Labbozzetta had any inspiration of running for any position on the Board of Commissioners at Soccer Australia.

"He stated to us that he had no such aspirations.

"The reasons that I believe we need change, are the ongoing losses of the NSW Soccer Federation for concurrent years which must cease, and a viable business plan, as well as direction, be put in place.

"Clubs as stakeholders, must be heard on issues with consultation of the Board of Directors of NSW.

"We emphatically believe that the immediate concerns of the stakeholders have not been addressed.

"In fact on many occasions, totally ignored.

"With this in mind, I believe change is of paramount importance," ended the very concerned Mr May.

**M**eanwhile another prominent member of another NSW Premier League Club, Mr George Jackson, the President of the Bankstown City Lions, also added his dissatisfaction on the current situation at the

NSW Soccer Federation.

**M**r Jackson said: "I joined NSW Soccer Federation back in 1985 as President of Bankstown and in about five years Bankstown jumped six divisions to become one of the leading clubs in the

basis before our meeting four weeks ago, but since that time, I am convinced we have made the correct choice."

Mr Jackson then went on to expand why he and other clubs believe in Labbozzetta.

"I firmly believe that Tony has:

— a wealth of knowledge



PETER GRAY: Retiring NSW President after 11 years.

State of NSW.

"For personal reasons, I had to leave the Club five years ago but rejoined in 2000.

For six years of my working career I have spent as a manager at Woolworths, but at all other times I have been self employed.

I have certain skills and a great passion for the game.

"I have always tried to be fair and firm to all my Club's members.

"When we commenced searching for a new leader of our State body about a month ago, a large number of delegates from the NSW clubs approached Mr Tony Labbozzetta to ask if he would consider to stand for President of the NSW Federation.

"He appeared delighted that we considered and wanted him.

"But he stressed to us that he would stand, only if we were absolutely sure that we did indeed seriously wanted him.

"I didn't know Tony Labbozzetta on a personal

of the game, knows many people on the local and world scene.

— has very good communication skills, second to none

— possesses corporate and political knowledge at many different levels

— has the excellent ability to conduct very good meaningful Meetings.

— has a vision for the future

→ is caring for the Stakeholders and listens to them.

— plus has a strong passion for our great game."

Mr Jackson then went on to underline:

"Up until now, the Board of NSW has failed:

• to communicate with the Clubs

• failed to help the Clubs make the competitions more economical.

• There's been a minimum Corporate sponsorships, if any.

• Competition structures are not functioning and not correctly designed or structured in a fair manner at Senior and Youth levels.

• All clubs should know where they will be next year and after that, according to their performance and ground criteria.

• Youth League — The children of Bankstown have been crucified by the Board as they finished 14th and then told they have to be in a Play-off with the Southern Branch who knew of the Play-off two years ago while Bankstown got to know after the competition had finished.

• The Board has refused to meet with Bankstown over the current Youth League fiasco.

• In a nut shell the Board needs a complete change to improve the game and to be fair to all its Members.

• Any contracts for work should be publicly tendered, at least to its Members (all).

• To Tom (Doumanis) — it's no good telling us the Premier Youth competition is not legal.

"What have you done to fix it?," concluded Mr Jackson.

**T**he President of the Leichhardt Tigers, Tony Raciti, as well as quite hostile and dissatisfied with what has been happening at Board level over recent years.

The always vocal Raciti, opened up by stating:

"Look, a large number of the NSW Premier League Clubs have been unhappy for far too long.

"We have been forced to approach Mr Tony Labbozzetta to stand as our new state President.

"I must make this very clear. Mr Labbozzetta, NEVER once approached us."

Then Mr Raciti went on to

bluntly state:

"I am sick and tired along with my fellow Directors at Leichhardt Tigers, along with all the other directors from most of the other clubs, having to raise approx \$200,000 per annum to keep our clubs afloat.

"We generate the income.

"We orchestrate, implement and physically generate all our funds.

"We don't simply issue invoices to raise cash.



TONY RACITI: President of the Leichhardt Tigers.

"We work extremely long hours on an honorary basis, 12 months of the year, if not more.

"Then I read the NSW Soccer Federation's Balance Sheet and it reflects over a number of years colossal losses — up to four million.

"The NSW Federation directors are responsible for these losses — it's as simple as that.

"No excuses — anyone can write cheques utilising

funds generated by the sale of land at Parklea and the invoicing of affiliation fees, fines etc to all the stakeholding clubs.

"Persons who wish to be directors of any organisation — it is their responsibility to generate income for that organisation.

"The current Board's sole objective should now be to wipe out the losses and get out into the marketplace and retrieve the mind-boggling

cash lost, back into the coffers of our head body.

"This should be their job — this is reality.

"All sorts of veiled threats will now be made — but I don't care anymore. I am sick and tired of not speaking out for fear that retribution could be taken against Leichhardt Tigers.

"My fellow Directors always say to me not to speak out, but what they don't realise is they also work very hard to generate funds for our club. A majority of those funds then flow into the coffers of our head body.

"The sale of the land at Parklea should have been a massive windfall for the game in NSW.

"Why is it that the VFL and the NRL give annual grants to their stakeholders?

"Whereas in Soccer the reverse happens.

"As such, the only persons that should hold the position of a Director on the Board of the NSW Soccer Federation, and on the Board at Soccer Australia for that matter, should be persons that possess the ability, expertise and have the calibre and capacity to perform, just like the Directors that are obviously associated with the NRL and VFL Boards," ended ver concerned Mr Raciti.



GEORGE JACKSON: President of Bankstown City Lions.



RICHARD MAY: President of the Sutherland Shire.



# National Youth League

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

### Round 4 Results

**Bulleen Zebras** 2 **South Melbourne Eagles** 4  
(Marino Gasparis, Darren Nedza) (Edemar Garcia 2, Ibrahim Ibraimi, Con Dimitropoulos)

### Round 13 Results

**Melbourne Knights Academy** 1 **South Melbourne Institute** 3  
(Anthony Pelikan) (Steven Pace, Jess Krncevic, Cameron Miles)

**Bulleen Zebras** 5 **Green Gully** 3  
(Marino Gasparis 3, Paul Presti 2) (Dean Vasic 2, Daniel)

**Preston Lions** 0 **Melbourne Knights Youth** 4  
(Bill Natsioulas 3, Anthony Jankovski)

**Albury Wodonga** 1 **South Melbourne Eagles** 2  
(Ben Holt) (Steven Pace, Ibrahim Ibraimi)

### NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LEADER - ROUND 13

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne Institute	13	11	2	0	58	12	35
South Melbourne Eagles Ac	13	9	1	3	30	16	28
Melbourne Knights	12	7	3	2	29	12	24
Melbourne Knights Academy	13	6	2	5	29	20	20
Bulleen Zebras	13	6	1	6	30	36	19
Albury Wodonga	12	3	1	8	21	31	10
Green Gully Cavaliers	13	2	2	9	11	35	8
Preston Lions	13	0	2	11	12	58	2

### Rescheduled Round 1 Fixture

Albury Wodonga v Melbourne Knights Youth, (Myrtleford, 7.30 pm)

### Round 14 Fixtures

Melb. Knights Academy v Bulleen Zebras, (Knights Stadium, 7.30 pm)

Melbourne Knights Youth v South Melbourne Eagles, (Knights Stadium, 7.30 pm)

Green Gully v Preston Lions, (Green Gully Reserve, 5 pm)

Albury Wodonga v South Melbourne Institute, (Myrtleford, 5 pm)

By Roy Hay

### Bulleen Zebras 2 South Melb. Eagles 4

In a catch up game from Round 4, South Melbourne Eagles eventually overcame Bulleen Zebras by four goals to two at the Veneto Club on Wednesday evening.

Marino Gasparis scored for the Zebras in the first minute of the game, and Darren Nedza just before half-time. In between the Eagles hit back with goals by Ibrahim Ibraimi and Edemar Garcia. The second half saw the Eagles gradually establish supremacy confirmed by a second goal from Garcia and one by keeper Con Dimitropoulos, playing outfield as striker. The other Eagles keeper, Steve Augustin, also had a spell as an outfielder during the game.

### Melb. Knights Ac. 1 Sth Melb. Institute 3

In a tough physical match with two red cards, the South Melbourne Institute beat Melbourne Knights Academy by three goals to one at Knights Stadium on Friday in Round 13.

Steven Pace got the only goal of the first half for the Blues in 40 minutes, and Jess Krncevic scored his second goal in successive matches to extend the lead five minutes into the second period.

Anthony Pelikan replied with a penalty kick in 56 minutes, but six minutes later Cameron Miles scored a third goal for the Blues. Best of the

Academy were Jonathan Estorino and Masumi Nishida.

### Bulleen Zebras 5 Green Gully 3

In a high scoring affair Bulleen Zebras beat Green Gully by five goals to three at the Veneto Club on Sunday.

Marino Gasparis with a hat-trick and Paul Presti with a double were the scorers for the Zebras, while Dejan Vasic scored twice and Daniel Skaftouros once for Gully.

### Preston Lions 0

### Melb. Knights Youth 4

Bill Natsioulas scored a hat-trick to give the Melbourne Knights a four-nil win over Preston Lions at Connor Reserve.

Natsioulas's goal came after 47, 77 and 88 minutes, while Australian Institute of Sport bound Antoni Jankoski scored the other one in 84 minutes. Best for the Knights were Natsioulas, Adam Jelic, Vito Cenitti, Sam Kalakias and Jankoski.

### Albury Wodonga 1

### South Melbourne Eagles 2

South Melbourne Eagles traveled to Albury Wodonga to beat the Warriors by two goals to one.

Steve Pace and Ibrahim Ibraimi both turned out for the Eagles and each scored, Ibraimi in 32 minutes and Pace in 39. Ben Holt pulled a goal back for the Warriors in 63 minutes, but in the heat neither side could add to its tally.

## NORTHERN DIVISION

### ROUND 15 RESULTS

**Wollongong Wolves Youth** 0 **Parramatta Power Youth** 3  
(D. Brown 26', Gavaghan 27', Holman 59')

**Newcastle United Youth** 1 **Northern Spirit Youth** 1  
(A. Hughes 37') (Own goal 57')

**AIS** 2 **Marconi Stallions Colts** 1  
(Danche 26', Nedeljkovic 89') (DeMarco 90')

**QAS** 3 **Sydney United Youth** 0

**Marconi Stallions Youth** 4 **NSWIS** 0  
(Brownlie 11' 50', Rohrer 57', Oricchio 63')

**Sydney United Colts** 0 **ACTAS** 0

**Olympic Sharks Youth** 3 **Brisbane Toro** 1  
(Agius 8' 46' 61') (Cameron 51')

### LEAGUE LADDER RD 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	15	12	0	3	53	14	36
Newcastle United Youth	16	11	1	4	32	19	34
Wollongong Wolves Youth	15	10	1	4	37	22	31
AIS	13	10	0	3	34	16	30
Sydney United Youth	15	9	2	4	30	13	29
Marconi Stallions Youth	15	9	1	5	28	13	28
QAS	15	8	3	4	30	20	27
ACTAS	13	7	1	5	26	28	22
Olympic Sharks Youth	16	5	5	6	26	22	20
Northern Spirit Youth	15	4	4	7	28	32	16
NSWIS	18	4	2	12	19	49	14
Brisbane Toro	14	2	0	12	17	46	6
Sydney United Colts	15	1	3	11	11	46	6
Marconi Stallions Colts	15	1	1	13	10	41	4

### ROUND 16 FIXTURES

- NSWIS Vs Woll. Wolves Youth, 6.30pm, Valentine Sports Park
- Northern Spirit Youth Vs AIS, 4.00pm, Christie Park
- Parra. Power Youth Vs New. Utd Youth, 4.00pm, Parra. Stadium
- Marconi Stall. Colts Vs Olym. Sharks Yth, 5.00pm, Marconi Stadium
- ACTAS Vs Marconi Stallions Youth, 5.00pm, AIS Soccer Field
- Syd. Utd Youth Vs Syd. Utd Colts, 4.00pm, Syd. Utd Sports Centrg
- Brisbane Toro Vs QAS, 4.45pm, Perry Park

# SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

## MATILDAS LIFT AUSTRALIA CUP

### WINNING WAS SANTRAC'S PRIORITY

Appointed to the full-time position of National Coach at the end of November, Adrian Santrac tackled his first assignment - the 4th Australia Cup 3-test series against South Korea - with winning at the forefront of his mind for the start of a new era.

He had already won an Australia Cup, twelve months previous in the role of interim coach, with two wins and a draw against France, and was adamant in his pursuit of a similar result against the fourth top team in Asia.

Santrac summed up his thoughts at the conclusion of the series as follows -

"For us, the series was about three things - 1) To retain the Australia Cup; 2) To use the series as a gauge of

where we are in relation to where we need to be to achieve our goals looking ahead to the future; and 3) As the beginning of a new program in women's soccer, a new campaign.

"We achieved number one. Secondly, we got a good long look at where are our playing strengths and where players are in the physical and technical sense.

"We will now use that information to address the areas of the program to ensure we're heading in the right direction to achieve our goals. Thirdly, we had the best start possible having started our campaign on a winning note. The players worked extremely hard to take in the information and apply it on to the field, and got the rewards."

goal in the end proved enough to claim the victory, although Korea created a good number of promising attacks in what became a bruising and passionate encounter.

The Matildas again took some time to settle into the game, whilst Korean midfielder Koak Mi Hi consistently carved her way up the left flank.

The crosses provided were not however met with equal effectiveness in front of goal.

The visitors' best chance came in the 13th minute when a neat flick-on with the boot from a corner kick allowed Cha Sung Mi in with a shot from close range.

Australia finally lifted at the quarter-hour mark, Joanne Peters instrumental in lighting up the attack, either getting in goalscoring positions herself or setting up opportunities with her skill and vision.

The rewards came to Peters in the 32nd minute, taking full advantage as a Korean defender tripped over the ball. Peters accepted the ball and took off towards the goal and from 16 metres on the left, clinically placed her shot under the keeper low inside the far post.

Not long after, Peters would have had another clear run on goal but was held back and denied the chance, her opponent shown the yellow card.

A checking foul by Australian captain Alison Forman sparked drama six minutes into the second half, Korea holding up play by showing dissent and refusing to take the resultant freekick.

Three yellow cards to Korea later, they threatened to walk off in dispute of the referee's decision not to yellow-card Forman. Things then calmed down and Korea resumed play.

Play became jaded and lifeless for the remainder of the game, the Matildas losing their direction and shape, and there were only a couple of half chances to each side. Korea had one good opportunity in stoppage time, but the free header flew well wide.

### GAME THREE - Matildas sweep in style

By Allan Clark

**AUSTRALIA 4**  
(Mann 29', Golebiowski 66', Black 75', Garriock 79')

**SOUTH KOREA 1**  
(Jung 41')

The Australian Women's team defeated the touring South Koreans four-one in Bendigo on a hot Saturday evening to take out the three-match Australia Cup, winning every game, and retaining the trophy they won against France last year.

In front of an appreciative 2,500-strong crowd in the picturesque Tom Flood Sporting Complex, the Koreans matched the Matildas in the first half, but fell away in the second following the dismissal of captain Yoo Young Sil for

an off the ball incident just before the hour.

From then on, the Matildas made the extra player advantage count, rattling in three unanswered goals in a 15 minute spell to run out comfortable winners.

Tracy Mann opened the scoring on the half-hour following sustained pressure in which Heather Garriock was giving her opponent, Kwon Min Yoo, such a run-around the Koreans decided to replace her as early as the 17th minute.



Heather Garriock: Man of the Match.

Mann ran down a through-ball which Korean centre-back Kim Yoo Mi looked to have time to clear, but instead headed weakly back to goalkeeper Kim Mee Yung, then collided with her as Mann challenged, allowing Mann a free shot into the now unguarded net.

It seemed only a matter of time for the Matildas to stretch the lead, as Garriock continued to run riot wide on the left, and Mann and Sharon Black creat-

ed opportunities for each other.

But it was Jung Jung Suk, the player who replaced the hapless Kwon Min Yoo, who was able to level the scores when she deflected a shot into the Australian net after the Matildas failed to clear from a corner.

There was always the hint of a niggles throughout the game, perhaps a continuation of the ill-feeling that had featured in the second game the previous Wednesday, but Queensland referee Tammy Ogston had shown her abilities to deal with it.

However, it was a rash response by Korean captain Yoo to a tackle she deemed unfair and decided to retaliate that brought out Ogston's red card the first of the game just

before the hour.

From then on, the action was one way, as the Matildas worked hard to find the spare player.

Golebiowski regained the lead for the Matildas when she was able to side-foot into an empty net taking advantage of a sparkling run down the left followed by a cross from Joanne Peters.

Sharon Black extended the lead just nine minutes later when she ghosted behind the Korean defence to run onto a fine ball from Alison Forman, cut inside and rifled home a right-foot shot.

And four minutes later, Garriock capped off a fine performance, looping over the stranded Kim to complete the scoring.

### AUSTRALIA CUP IN SUMMARY

**GAME ONE - Sun 13 January** - Robertson Oval, Wagga Wagga

**AUSTRALIA 1** (April Mann 72) defeated **SOUTH KOREA 0**

**Crowd:** 5,712

**Referee:** Tammy Ogston

**Australia:** Nichols, Wainwright, Salisbury, Tann, Bartlett, Davies (Thomson 67), Rockall (Garriock 63), Forman (c), Peters, Black (Golebiowski 77), Casagrande (Mann 50).

**GAME TWO - Wed 16 January** - Lavington Sports Club Oval, Albury

**AUSTRALIA 1** (Joanne Peters 52) d **SOUTH KOREA 0**

**Crowd:** 2,074

**Referee:** Krystyna Szokolai

**Australia:** Nichols, Wainwright, McShea, Tann, Bartlett, Thomson (Davies 60), Rockall (Garriock 63), Forman (c), Peters, Black (Golebiowski 70), Mann (Casagrande 59).

**GAME THREE - Sat 19 January** - Tom Flood Sports Centre, Bendigo

**AUSTRALIA 4** (April Mann 29, Kelly Golebiowski 66, Sharon Black 75, Heather Garriock 79) defeated **SOUTH KOREA 1**

(Jung Jung Suk 41) at Tom Flood Sports Centre, Bendigo

**Crowd:** 2,479

**Referee:** Tammy Ogston

**Australia:** Nichols (Kell 75), Wainwright, Salisbury, Tann, Bartlett, Davies (Thomson 85), Forman (c) (McShea 80), Peters (Nolan 72), Garriock, Black, Mann (Golebiowski 46).



# Deakin kick-off pre-season

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Deakin began their pre-season campaign in style with a



Tony Brennan: Wanted by Deakin.

game against Bosnian club Ljubuski at Deakin Oval last week Wednesday.

Coach Vlado Horvat admitted the fixture put a strain on his players, who returned to pre-season training only at the beginning of last week. However, a number of sessions had been held since then.

Former Weston Creek Royals coach Robbie Graham has been placed in charge of the under-19 team, with John Bull coaching the under 23s. Nado Spaleta is coach of the under-17 squad, which will compete in the junior league but will retain strong links with the senior side of the club.



Vlado Horvat: Deakin's coach.

"The aim is to make an easier transition from junior to youth football and beyond", Horvat said.

Deakin is still negotiating with former University of Canberra team boss and Canberra Cosmos assistant Tony Brennan, who they hope to bring to the club.

"He is very interested, but it is really a case of what role he will play here", Horvat said. "It could be as a club spokesman, because he is very good at that, or in some kind of coaching role in any other European countries".

# Bland steps-in at Tugger

It's back to the future for ACT Premiership club Tuggeranong United with the appointment of Jimmy Bland as head coach. Bland was a midfielder player with United in the late 1980s and later became director of coaching for the junior club, before leaving to take charge of Weston Creek Royals and then Monaro.

Speaking after his appointment Bland said he always had an affection for the club he joined directly after arriving in Canberra from England.

"They have shown a lot of potential in recent years without any real success, so I'm eager to do something about that with some respectable results in 2002 and beyond", he said.

"With their strong junior base there will always be

developing talent at Tuggeranong, the real test is to retain that talent in the senior ranks".

He made a call for all Tuggeranong-based players currently with other clubs to consider coming 'home' in 2002. "I shall be doing everything possible to ensure they choose to play for Tuggeranong United" he said.

Steve Emmott has been reappointed under-23 coach with Joel Unwin in charge of the youth team. Tuggeranong will also field teams in ACT State League divisions three, four and youth, and will have no fewer than four masters teams.

The first training session for the season will be on February 2 at Wanniasa Playing Fields, beginning at 4pm.

# Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

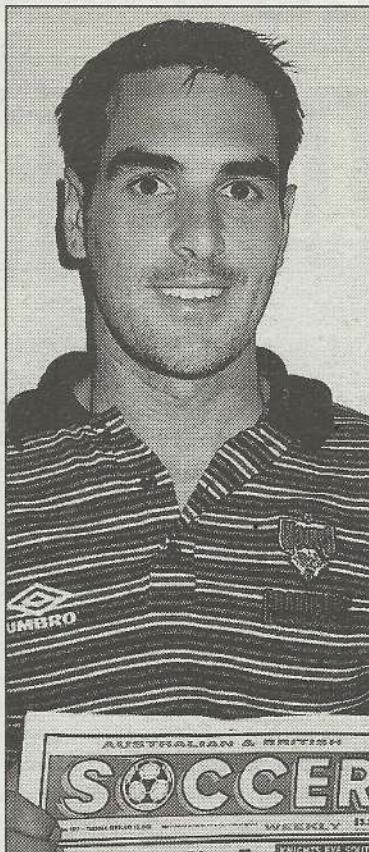
**Wolves' Prospects Looking better** -- Team selections are improving for Wolves coaching staff. Training was tough during the week and the squad is really being tested in an effort to lift fitness levels and overcome injury problems. Media contact Stuart Young reports that promising young striker Naum Sekulovski is still sidelined with an ankle injury, a setback for Coach Ron Corry who is impressed with the recent form of Sekulovski. He is being replaced by another teenager Greg Sharland.

Also on standby is youth grade striker Liam Austin despite nursing a broken nose from his last game. Better news coming out of the Wolves den are the recovery of sweeper Ben Blake and all round player Robbie Stanton, a consistent performer. Midfield regular David Huxley is suspended, hopefully free for next week. The coach is going to name a replacement on match day.

Good news concern Wolves skipper George Souris, out for over four months, making a comeback in youth grade after successful two weeks training to regain match practice. He will be determined to return to first grade as soon as possible.

**Illawarra Sports Fans** - Have you noticed lately there is hardly any local midweek sports news of your favourite sport code in the Illawarra Mercury? Since the new Sydney-appointed editor took over after respected soccer writer Phil Murphy retired, the direction of the sports pages went away from local sport. The popular Thursday Soccer column and Friday's all sports tales from Murphy are gone. The newspaper has turned its back on local minor sporting codes.

Down South, the popular Lake Times covers all sorts of minor events in sport as well the Advertiser to some extent and the Australian Soccer Weekly from Sydney publishing a Wollongong News page, much appreciated by all club fans. Perhaps



Robbie Stanton: Returned to the Wolves against Parramatta.

we can convince the Lake Times, a branch of the Kiama Independent, to spread it's range all over Illawarra to cater for the now starving local followers of any sports activity, not only football but numerous other codes as well. These once per week papers come out every Wednesday and the Australian Soccer Weekly on Tuesday. Ask your newsagent.

It might help if you fans voice your opinion in phone calls or letter to the editor of either paper and check out the presently only south of Wollongong distributed Lake Times. You will find your preferred sport mentioned even though the Lake Times as a free paper comes out once per week only, as well as the others -

Advertiser and Australian British Soccer Weekly.

Please express your view in numbers and we might be able to change or improve sports news reporting.

Minor local sports friends make up a large number of newspaper readers and are looking for any articles on their preferred sports code each day of the week and weekends. Sydney weekend papers concentrate on one particular league news mainly, rarely any local other sport is mentioned. If enough fans voice their disappointment it might be possible to achieve better coverage.

**Illawarra Referees Association** - A soccer referee entrance course is to be run at the Fraternity club, Fairy Meadow, Sunday 24th February and Wednesday 27th with examinations, time 9 AM to 4.30 PM with breaks for lunch on Sunday, on Wednesday from 6.30 PM for exams, cost \$20, which includes a copy of the laws of the game, prerequisite 14 years or over, enquiries on phone 42953067.

Former senior players plus juniors looking to refereeing in preference to playing are invited to join the introduction course. The game needs referees to survive and top performers can earn a substantial weekend retainer.

**ISA AGM** - The annual general meeting of the Illawarra Soccer Association is set for Sunday 3rd February at the Corrimal Leagues Club 10 AM. The election of directors is on the agenda, half of the present Board is up for election after competing their two year term. Several notices of motions to be voted on have been submitted.

Considering recent upheavals regarding the two competition formats, it is possible more lively discussions on the subject could dominate the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** - has been bolstered by the record attendance at semi-finals, finals and Premier League Grand Final as well as replays. The profit shown can be contributed to the dedication of the directors involved in running Cup games, Knock-outs, Play-off games including the Grand finals. Substantial cost savings are to be achieved with the relocation of the administration to the Fraternity club with reduction in office rents. Sponsorships and additional gate receipts due to required replay of games have helped to work out a good balance sheet. This will benefit the member clubs with profits eventual credited to their running costs.

The directors beside of-field work on many weekends and some week nights also had to attend in excess of 30 odd meetings, some regular Board Meetings and others Special Meetings taking up considerable time. The nine directors of the Association are donating their spare time as volunteers without much reward, more often criticised by others. They really don't need that. Nominations are required to fill vacancies on the Board, if you have the will and time, please put your hand up.

**Junior Soccer** - Registration Days are soon at individual soccer grounds like Oak Flats at Panorama Oval, Shellharbour at Barrack Heights Sports Field., Warilla at Morley Park and other soccer fields. Dates are Saturday 2nd February, 9th and 16th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Clubs might accept registrations at other days to sustain various age groups from U/6's to U/18's - boys and girls. Please watch out for newspaper advertising of dates, times and places to register.

**Latest from Juniors** - Shellharbour Junior Soccer Club has announced their new separate identity with an elect-

ed management committee of President Zoran Jovanovski (M/P 0417445860), Secretary Benita on M/P 0439978767, Treasurer Vicki Strachan, Vice President Joe Wilson, Registrar Nick Renwick. The club plays at Barrack Heights Sportsfield, actually the inaugural Juniors were founded there in 1967 organised then by Life Member Mrs Helen Barrett. They were founded as Warilla United before renamed. Shellharbour Junior Soccer club have confirmed their own status, now divorced from a three year affiliation with the senior body - according to their new President. They would welcome support from the seniors of Shellharbour City.

Besides of Barrack Heights main field, two outside grounds are available for younger age groups. Their junior registration age groups u/6 to u/18 will be held at Barrack Heights Sports field on Saturday 2nd February, 9th and 16th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Additional dates will be named as required. For any enquiries refer to BENITA the Secretary.

In many years Shellharbour Juniors produced many outstanding players and fielded some years over 26 junior teams. The club now has to start from zero with no funds left and must search for sponsorships to restart previous successful soccer seasons.

Senior soccer club Shellharbour City, located at Keith Bond Oval, is willing to actively support the Shellharbour Juniors, talking to the new management committee to establish urgent needs.

Well credentialed City head coach Barney King is taking an active interest in the development of Shellharbour Juniors, prepared to attend junior teams training nights to advise and or assist junior coaches if required.

He is experienced in handling youngsters having coached youth teams at the Wollongong Wolves for several seasons. You can contact Barney on mobile phone 0414879570 for further information. He himself was a former Shellharbour player and coach in the 1980's.





Ange Postecoglou(left) with the U/20 national squad during training at Coffs Harbour, last year prior to the World Youth Championships in Argentina, later in the year.

## ANGE POSTECOGLU

# Securing Australia's Soccer Future

By Mark Stavroulakis

**A**ustralian U17's coach Ange Postecoglou is in full swing with his current crop of future stars, ahead of the 2002 Oceania Tournament held at Parklea.

It's early days yet for the U17 Australian side, but Postecoglou believes the squad does have the potential to go places. "It's still early days to say anything about these players, however it gives me a good chance to see them perform in match day situations. It's also an opportunity to get to know the players and to show them what's expected from me in any future developments.

So far we have done well in the tournament and I have already seen 4-5 players with enormous potential. It is however early days to say who is in the squad with the World Cup next year, I have a few more players apart from the 20 I have at the moment to look at. At the conclusion of the tournament I will fly across the country to see a few other boys and I will also speak to coaches and see if there are anymore potential players for the squad,"

said the former South Melbourne coach.

Strong preparations are billed for next year's U17 World Cup held in Finland with more tournaments organized for the team. "We already have a tournament organized in late March, early April in Paraguay where 12 countries from around the world will participate. It's like a mini World Cup, also later in the year, a tour of Europe is in the process as well," said Ange.

It was this time last year, Postecoglou was in charge of the last Joeys side that qualified for the World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago. The side made the quarterfinals, but unfortunately lost 5-1 to a strong Nigerian outfit.

"The last Joey squad had many talents, but they all improved as time moved on, like the players I currently have. I was really happy with way the team performed in the group stages of the World Cup, especially the 4-0 win against Croatia. We made the quarterfinals but deserved better against Nigeria who ended up as finalists in the Cup. I was pleased with boys' performance and was happy to see goalkeeper Nathan Coe and AIS midfielder Carl Valeri make the World U17 elevens," said

the Joeys coach.

At the moment, the former South Melbourne star is negotiating a four-year contract with Soccer Australia. "I am in talks with Soccer Australia, and I would love to take on another four years as head Australian youth coach," said Postecoglou.

Alongside Ange at the Oceania Tournament, South Melbourne star Dave Clarkson was also spotted giving directions to the players. "I've taken Dave for this tournament only and have organized to rotate my assistant coaches through time.

It gives younger coaches the experience to see first hand how a National Team is run. It's great to have young former players as assistants as the boys get a huge buzz seeing them," said Ange.

Having so many talented youngsters at our fingertips, many of them were lost to overseas clubs at a young age. Late last year, FIFA set a rule that no player under the age of 18 is allowed to leave the country, Ange believes that this rule will help Australian Soccer greatly.

"I agree with new FIFA rule as it gives players the chance to try and establish themselves for a good 2-3 years in our

National League. Having our top youngsters stay in Australia for a few years will only better the standard of football in the country," said Ange.

Ange's other responsibility is the U20's squad, a much easier squad to pick from as most of the players are playing week in week out in the National League. "As soon as the current National League sea-

son finishes, I will organize a camp for the new batch of U20's players. The World Cup is held in the United Arab Emirates next year and I want to prepare well with the side.

I know most of the boys from the last U17 Joeys side who are eligible to play for the U20's. However, there are many youngsters making a name for themselves in the National League and I'll be inviting them for a closer look," said the busy Australian coach.

It's been a few months since the Socceroos harsh exit from the World Cup.

Many people have suggested their rebuilding plans for the side, Ange believes direct qualification is the key to the Socceroos survival.

"The majority of the Socceroos are based in Europe so the easiest solution will be to prepare over there. However, direct qualification is a must if the Socceroos are to rid of their current problems at the moment. It will give all the Oceania clubs an incentive to play for and will strengthen the competition in the Oceania region," said Postecoglou.

The current National League this year has been very different to previous ones in the past. Many changes have been evident through the use of younger players, also a few bigger clubs have found it tough to gain a win in the competition.

"The standard of football in Australia at the moment is not to great apart from 2-3 good sides. We are experiencing a low period in the game, we need some changes to better our football standards here. The new FIFA rule not allowing underage players leaving the country will benefit the country for sure. Keeping these youngsters till the age of 20 is fantastic and will make the league stronger," said Postecoglou.

Since his step up to Australian Youth coach, Ange has always had a soft spot for coaching a National League side again. "I really miss the National League, I especially miss South Melbourne. I am very happy being the Australian coach as coaching future Socceroo players and trying to get better results for the country really gives me a huge buzz. In saying that, after I finish my reign as Youth coach I would like to go back to coaching in the National League," said the determined coach.

Ange's former club South Melbourne are currently experiencing a few problems, the club is sitting at the foot of the table and look unlikely to make the top six.

"South Melbourne is still my club and it is disappointing to see them on the bottom of the ladder. This should never happen, I know the club has lost a few quality players and they are financially struggling.

It's just a shame for a club with such a rich history to be traveling as bad they are at the moment. South Melbourne in my mind should always be in the top six, to be in the bottom of the league is very disheartening to see. I hope that in time, the fortunes at the club will change, and the tag of champions will once again be seen," concluded Ange.



The current U17 national team now being put together by Postecoglou



# Viareggio Tournament 2002



## Leichhardt Tigers In Italy

By John Economos on tour in Viareggio, Italy.

### Travelling Party

- 1 Corte - Tom (Cpt)
- 2 Boutros - John Paul
- 3 Cameron - Liam
- 4 Catalano - Damien
- 5 Ciano - Joseph
- 6 Coluccio - Daniel
- 7 Cunningham - Daniel
- 8 DeKelly - Josh
- 9 Foti - Nathan
- 10 Graham - Rhys
- 11 Julliard - Pascal
- 12 Nelson - Murray
- 13 Nicolaou - Paul
- 14 O'Riley - Michael
- 15 Quilty - Thomas
- 16 Raciti - Matthew
- 17 Restuccia - Rockie
- 18 Short - Ashley
- 19 Tyburski - Luke
- 20 Younis - Robert
- 21 Zabaks - Phil
- 22 Zarrella - Francesco
- 23 Tony Raciti - President
- 24 John Romeo - Coach
- 25 Mark Brady - Assistant Coach
- 26 Stuart Veitch - Official
- 27 Francesco Labbozzetta - Official
- 28 Cosimo Catalano - Official
- 29 John Economos - Media
- 30 Paolo Rajo - Media

The Leichhardt Tigers under-20 team flew out of Sydney late last Saturday afternoon bound for Italy where they will compete in one of Europe's toughest competitions that's globally renowned, the Viareggio tournament.

Held annually, this will be the 54th consecutive Tournament staged at Viareggio, the beach resort City wedged on the north-western coast of Italy in the Tuscany region.

The Young Tigers have been drawn in group five of the 40 team competition alongside Cittadella (Padova), Vicenza and Piacenza.

The young Sydney-based team will play its first Group game next Tuesday the 29th of January against Cittadella up in the Veneto region, 300km from Viareggio, followed by the match against Vicenza near Pisa on Thursday the 31st of January.

Leichhardt's last Group match will be played on Saturday, February 2nd against Piacenza, near Florence 130km from Viareggio.

All these games have a 3pm kickoff time.

Whilst waiting for the tournament to commence, Leichhardt's energetic President Tony Raciti has arranged at least three trial matches this week, to enable the Young Tigers to very quickly acclimatise to the current record freezing conditions that have struck right across Europe.

The first trial game hopefully is against Deportivo Espaniol, the Argentinian team that will compete in the Tournament in Group 10.

This game has been scheduled today (Tuesday) followed by a friendly clash tomorrow against a local Viareggio team.

The third and final friendly hit out will possibly be against another local team from Pisa this Saturday which at this stage is to be played inside Pisa's Main Stadium.

The Leichhardt squad arrived in Rome last Sunday and went straight into a six-hour tour around this absolutely magnificent City, recognised worldwide as the gateway to Europe.

Late in the afternoon the

players went to the Rome Olympic Stadium to see Lazio crush Perugia 5-0.

The travelling squad and Club officials of the Leichhardt Tigers have made their historic flight to this most prestigious youth tournament flying Thai Airways.

The Leichhardt Tigers travelling party is based at the Albergo Losana, a family-run hotel by the Smurro family.

The Leichhardt coach John Romeo who has won the NSW Premier Youth League Championship for the past two consecutive years with the Tigers stated last night from Italy:

"This tour will prove a tremendous experience for every single one of my players.

"In reality the Viareggio Tournament is a mini world cup.

"Competing we will see crack teams such as AC Milan, Feyenoord, Bayern Munich, Great African Stars (Ghana), Juventus, Torino, Fiorentina, Santa Catarina (Brasil), and Maccabi Haifa (Israel)," proudly explained the Australian schoolteacher and champion coach.



Murray Nelson: (G)



Ashley Short



Francesco Zarrella



John Paul Boutros



Liam Cameron



Tom Quilty



Nathan Foti



Pascal Julliard



Daniel Cunningham



Joshua Dekelly



Daniel Coluccio



Luke Tyburski



Phillip Zabaks (G)



Michael O'Riley



Matthew Raciti



Rockie Restuccia



Luke Tyburski



Tom Corte: Captain.



Joseph Ciano



John Romeo: Coach.



Paul Nicolaou

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
A.C. MILAN	NAPOLI	TORINO	FIorentina	VICENZA
FEYENOORD (HOLLAND)	BELASICA STRUMICA (MACEDONIA)	TERNANA	F.C. UTA ARAD (ROMANIA)	PIACENZA
SALERNITANA	CASTEL DI SANGRIO	REGGINA	VERONA	CITTADELLA PADOVA
NEW YORK (USA)	GERATION FOOT (SENEGAL)	INDIPENDIENTE SANTE FE' (COLOMBIA)	SANTA CATARINA (BRASIL)	LEICHHARDT TIGERS (AUSTRALIA)
GROUP 6	GROUP 7	GROUP 8	GROUP 9	GROUP 10
ROMA	INTER MILAN	JUVENTUS	ATALANTA	BRESCIA
BAYERN MUNICH (GERMANY)	STELLA ROSSA (YUGOSLAVIA)	PARMA	ANDRELECHT (BELGIUM)	SLAVIA PRAHA (REP. CECIA)
PERUGIA	LAZIO	BARI	EMPOLI	PALERMO
DESPORTIVO CAPIXABA (BRASIL)	GREAT AFRICAN STARS (GHANA)	PUMAS UNAM (MEXICO)	MACCABI HAIFA (ISRAEL)	C. DEPORTIVO ESPANOL (ARGENTINA)



# NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



## FEATURE MATCH

### Sutherland Sharks



VS



### Penrith Panthers

**KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 26 January 2002**  
**VENUE: Seymour Shaw Park, The Boulevard, Miranda**

**S**harks' Coach Billy McColl was absolutely ecstatic with his side's 2-2 draw with Blacktown City at the Gabbie last Saturday night.

While the one point has seen the Sharks creep a little closer to Penrith, the draw has seen Blacktown knocked out of the Top Five for the first time this season. With new Coach John Turner an interested spectator, there was plenty for him to ponder as he casts his eye over the young talent pool at Seymour Shaw.

"The boys played exceptionally well," said McColl. "I cannot fault one of my players — they all gave one hundred percent and as a coach it was a very pleasing performance."

The Sharks have no injury problems ahead of the Panthers visit and have their eyes fixed firmly on three points, confident they can tackle the hard running visi-

tor's head on.

"We are a very good chance of knocking over Penrith," said McColl. "If we can work as hard as we did against Blacktown and take our chances, sure, we can pull off a win. The boys are fired up and the result last week has given them a lot of heart."

Penrith were a touch unlucky last weekend when they went down 2-0 to the Bulls at Nineveh Field. The loss leaves the club in tenth spot on eight points, but the Panthers have not given up on a Top Five spot and see themselves an outside chance if some other results go their way.

State midfielder Jason Sciberras is one player the Panthers will need to be firing this week if they are to take maximum points in this outing. "We just didn't play well against Fairfield," said Sciberras. "We weren't on our game and we struggled to

knock the ball around and stretch the Bulls. It was disappointing but I'm sure Tony (Rasmussen) will work hard on it during the week and have us focused on the Sharks."

There are no major injury concerns in the Panthers camp. Ossie El Ali has recovered from a corked calf and with Glenn Meilak and Danny Hinton impressing in the under 19s, Coach Tony Rasmussen faces an agonising decision on his final squad this week.

"Everyone has been playing well," said Sciberras, "it's just been our intensity at some stages in games that has cost us. We match up well against Sutherland. They are a young and mobile team the same as us, and we will definitely be looking for the win."

**Round One Result:**  
Penrith Panthers 3 (Boyd x2, Hutchinson) - Sutherland Sharks 1 (M. Pfrengle).

## SQUADS

**SHARKS:** 1. Dennes Olla, 2. Peter Feehan, 3. Alan Stajic, 4. David O'Han, 5. Ben Short, 6. Dean Heffernan, 7. Jamie Danaskos, 8. Monte Pfrengle, 9. Alex Pfrengle, 10. Steve Cklamovski, 11. Kris Karanasos, 12. Dean Spresian, 13. Ambrose Mancia, 14. Andy Watts, 15. Colin McAusland, 16. Kire Josevski, 17. Bill Petrovski, 20. Sam LaMacchia, 21. Mitchell Blowes. **Coach:** Billy McColl

**PANTHERS:** 1. Chad Taylor, 2. Jon Hawkins, 3. Chris Giometti, 4. Glenn Meilak, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Daniel Wells, 7. Dave Gardiner, 8. Paul Marosevic, 9. Rod Hutchinson, 10. Osvaldo El Ali, 11. Luke O'Connell, 12. Christian Lima, 13. Jason Sciberras, 14. Wayne Berrigan, 15. Danny Hinton, 17. Shane Hammond, 18. Gustavo Orcajo, 20. Tim O'Connell, 21. Ryan Noble, 25. Marty McCaffery, 26. Luke Boyd, 24. Kurt Van Arkels. **Coach:** Tony Rasmussen

**Jason Sciberras of Penrith:**  
"We match up well against Sutherland. They are a young and mobile team the same as us, and we will definitely be looking for the win."

SUTHERLAND SHARKS are proudly sponsored by Pipe King, Bezzina's Development, Caltex, Howard Water Proofing, Knock-out Shoes, Realco Glass and Aluminium, Man-Lin-Wah Restaurant

## PREMIER LEAGUE

### ROUND 12

**Friday January 25** 1st Grade U19

St George v P'matta Eagles St George Stad. 8:00pm 6:00pm

**Saturday January 26**

Belconnen BD v Bonnyrigg WE W Belconnen SG 6:30pm 4:30pm

Bankstown City v Central Coast Jensen Park 7:00pm 5:00pm

Blacktown City v C'bury-M'ville Gabbie Stadium 7:00pm 5:00pm

S'land Sharks v Penrith Panthers Seymour Shaw 7:00pm 5:00pm

**Sunday January 27**

Leichhardt Tigers v Fairfield Bulls Lambert Park 5:00pm \*

\* Grade 19 to play Wed 27th Feb 7:00pm Lambert Park

### ROUND 13

**Friday February 1** 1st Grade U19

C'bury M'ville v S'land Sharks Henson Park 8:00pm 6:00pm

**Saturday February 2**

Fairfield Bulls v St George Nineveh Field 7:00pm 5:00pm

Penrith Panthers v L'hardt Tigers Lambert Park 7:00pm \*\*

Bankstown City v Belconnen BD Jensen Park 6:30pm 4:30pm

Central Coast v Blacktown City Pluim Park 7:00pm 5:00pm

**Sunday February 3**

P'matta Eagles v Bonnyrigg WE Melita Stadium 6:30pm 4:30pm

\*\*Grade 19 to play Wed 13th March at 7:15pm Lambert Park

## NEWS FLASH!!

Laki Konistis is the new coach of Canterbury Marrickville Olympic.  
Full story on page 20.



The *Cafe La Scala* Player of the Week after Round 11 of the NSW Premier League is:



**Dane Hokin**  
Central Coast Coasties

*Cafe La Scala* is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt. Phone: (02) 9572 8577



## Inside ... Inside ...

- From The Sidelines .....P20
- Sutherland Sharks in focus .....P21
- Scoreboard & Picture Gallery .....P22
- Match Reports .....P24-25





# NSW Premier League



## PREVIEW ROUND TWELVE

## SECOND ROUND BEGINS!



**Blacktown City Demons**

VS

**C'bury-M'ville Olympic**



**KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 26 January 2002**

**VENUE: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Ave, Seven Hills**

**W**hat is the matter with Blacktown? That has been the question on everyone's lips since Round Six, when the Demons lost their second game for the season and started on a downward spiral that leaves them sitting outside the Top Five for the first time this season.

Having posted just one win in their past six outings, Canterbury have a good chance to upset the home side having reinvented themselves under the coaching stewardship of Laki Konistis. A must win game for both sides who are desperate to keep in touch with the Top Five.

**Round One Result:** Canterbury-Marrickville 5 (Paradis pen, Kotsopoulos, Jomaa, Beldham, Amegashie) - Blacktown City 2 (Iocca, Riches pen).

### SQUADS

**DEMONS:** 1. John Crawley, 2. Paul Yates, 3. Damien Foxe, 4. Peter Sermanni, 5. Ben Willard, 6. Damon Langan, 7. Paul Dee, 8. Michael Smith, 9. Kain Rastall, 10. Naoki Imaaya, 11. Jim Nikas, 12. Zlatko Donev, 13. Steve Riches, 14. David Reid, 15. Mark Hayger, 16. Patrick Gatt, 17. Luciano Berbis, 18. Graeme O'Donell, 19. Chad Lewis, 20. James Wilkinson. **Coach:** Brian Brown

**OLYMPIC:** 1. Les Bihari, 2. Greg Collins, 3. Christian Ortiz, 4. John Manolopoulos, 5. Mark D'Alessandro, 6. Andy Amegashie, 7. Con Paradis, 8. Yane Talceviski, 9. Mark Beldham, 11. Aheleas Kotsopoulos, 12. John Pillemer, 13. Huseyin Bayhan, 14. Mite Talceviski, 15. Emmanuel Papageorgiou, 16. Angelo Markopoulos, 17. Marcelo Guerrero, 18. Ali Salim, 19. Michael Kladis, 20. Tristan Tulloch. **Coach:** Laki Konistis

**BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS** are proudly sponsored by Perfection Milk, West Ham United Football Club, Cadbury-Schweppes, Wonderland Travel, Independent Gaming Systems



**Bankstown City Lions**

VS

**Central Coast Coasties**



**KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 26 January 2002**

**VENUE: Jensen Park, Clapham St, Sefton**

**T**he Lions three game unbeaten run came to a disappointing end last week with the Berries knocking over the Lions 2-1 at Jensen Park.

That loss has wounded the pride of the Lions but Coach Ljube Jancev will regroup his side and they are sure to take a power of beating at home. Darren Iocca has also joined the ranks and he will be one to watch for the Coasties defenders who have been hot and cold.

The visitor's must win this week to maintain contact with the Top Five and keep themselves in the hunt.

**Round One Result:** Central Coast 2 (Preston, Smith) - Bankstown City 2 (Karl, Mammoliti).

### SQUADS

**LIONS:** 1. Zlatko Josevski, 2. Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Luksic, 4. Bryan Raeburn, 5. Anthony Kanaan, 6. Paul Wearne, 7. George Issa, 8. Robert Issa, 9. Goce Trposki, 10. Iain MacDonald, 11. Alex Trposki, 12. Adam Mammoliti, 13. Saso Boskovski, 14. Freddy Umlil, 15. Damien Luksic, 16. Colin Luff, 17. Steven Dimitrievski, 18. Dong-Ki Kim, 19. Robert Angievski, 20. Cem Akilli, 21. Darren Iocca, 22. Leo Carle. **Coach:** Ljube Jancev

**COASTIES:** 1. Matthew Collits, 2. Sean Matthews, 4. Danny Burt, 5. Mitchell Daley, 6. Dane Hokin, 7. Peter Preston, 8. Adam Peatey, 9. Damien Smith, 10. Mick Williams, 11. Karl Freeman, 12. Peter Leary, 13. Peter Ritchie, 14. Andrew Clark, 15. Pat Bradley, 22. Darren Moore. **Coach:** Dale Eggleton

**BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS** are proudly sponsored by The Good Guys @ Bankstown, ASU - All Sewn Up, New Tech Automotive, Direct Smash Repairs, G.Mack & Co. Accountants, Alex Electrical, Bucinski Accounting Enterprises, BP Yagoona, I&V Plaster, D&S Gyprock, Australiers, M&S Variety, Australian Mortgage Options, P&F Landscaping & Maintenance, D&V Building Supplies, Bexley North Cellars



**Belconnen Blue Devils**

VS

**Bonnyrigg WE**



**KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Saturday 26 January 2002**

**VENUE: West Belconnen Sports Ground, Hardwick Cres, Holt (ACT)**

**B**elconnen have struggled at home this season having won just two of their five home starts.

Last season's Gold Medal winner Steve Lazzari has left the camp but with Daniel Macor and Daniel Camara scoring goals there is no shortage of talent willing to step up.

Bonnyrigg stretched their unbeaten run to 11 games when disposing of the Coasties 2-1 at the Serbian Centre last Saturday night. Only Javier Mancino and John Kyriazopoulos are causing any injury concerns leaving Coach Greg Woodhouse with almost a full strength squad from which to choose his starting eleven.

**Round One Result:** Bonnyrigg 3 (Aschner x2, Gomez) - Belconnen 2 (Gagetti, Camara).

### SQUADS

**BLUE DEVILS:** 1. Anthony Giannasca, 2. Toplica Popovich, 3. Matthew Cachia, 4. Elliot Zwangobani, 5. Nic Purdue, 6. Shane Lyons, 8. Michael Katz, 10. Daniel Macor, 11. David Arranz, 12. Jaime Mauro, 13. Stewart Camara, 14. Ella Salloum, 15. Adrian Dowling, 16. Oscar Zamora, 17. Stephen Kemp, 18. Lee Pietrukowski, 19. Daniel Camara, 20. Rade Kosanovic. **Coach:** Lino Fiorese

**WHITE EAGLES:** 1. Fernando Greco, 2. Sasha Utjesenovic, 4. Bobby Dragas, 5. Tayfun Devrimol, 6. Vuko Tomasevic, 7. Javier Mancino, 8. David Harding, 9. Shane Knight, 10. Christopher Bradley, 11. Johnny Ghiso, 13. Robert Gomez, 14. Leigh Gunn, 15. Peter Oklamovski, 16. Michael Hawrysiuk, 17. Jimmy Aschner, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 20. David Aceski, 22. Rajko Mandic, 23. Devrim Huseyin. **Coach:** Greg Woodhouse

**BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS** are proudly sponsored by Belconnen Soccer Club, Uhlsport, Mcguigan Wines, bestvalue11.com, Pacific Painting, Sharp Direct

**ST. GEORGE**



**St George Saints**

VS

**Parramatta Eagles**



**KICK-OFF: 8pm & 6pm, Friday 25 January 2002**

**VENUE: St George Stadium, 88 Bestic St, Rockdale**

**T**he Saints suffered their worst defeat of the coaching reign of Manny Spanoudakis last week but get the chance to atone when they host the Eagles.

Some new faces in the form of Bruno Beddoni, John Christou and Nabil Codmani give the side a new look, but their well documented troubles in front of goal (3 goals in seven games) is not helping matters. Parramatta continues to be one of the challengers for this season's Premiership and will be looking to this game as a good opportunity for three points.

**Round One Result:** Parramatta Eagles 3 (Mondello x3, Kukucka) - St. George 0.

### SQUADS

**SAINTS:** 1. Stacy Alogdellis, 2. Mark Bariamis, 3. Nick Boliantitis, 4. Angelo Petratos, 5. Max Sevares, 6. Spyros Kladis, 7. George Maglis, 8. Bruno Beddoni, 9. Achilleas Markopoulos, 11. John Fotiadis, 12. Fabio Macolino, 13. Nabil Codmani, 14. Steven Papadopoulos, 15. Nick Mandic, 16. Simon Verrender, 17. Manny Spanoudakis, 18. Sal Zullo, 19. Mladen Damjanovic, 21. Brad Campbell, 22. John Christou, 23. Joshua Rufo. **Coach:** Manny Spanoudakis

**EAGLES:** 1. Jason Holmes, 2. Daniel Borg, 3. Geoff Dwyer, 4. Malcolm Meilak, 5. Mark Reveley, 6. Mirko Jurilj, 7. Mauricio Islas, 8. Daniel Kukucka, 9. Anthony Mondello, 10. Tony Mittiga, 11. Jim Bakis, 13. Paul O'Grady, 12. Glenn Sprod, 14. Stephen Chipps, 15. Ben Delicata, 16. Geoff Howarth, 19. Daniel Cummins, 21. Joel Morgan. **Coach:** Tam Finlayson

**ST GEORGE SAINTS** are sponsored by the St George Rowing Club





# NSW Premier League



## FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

**C**ongratulations to Fairfield Bulls midfielder Stewart Van Bentum who married long-time girlfriend Mel two weekends back.

After a short honeymoon, Van Bentum was back with Bulls training desperate to help out with his side's tough January schedule.

his weight behind the move, success is surely only a matter of time. In other club news, former Moorabbin City defender Peter Feehan will be out for up to 8 weeks with a broken collarbone.

The Sharks surely will miss the likeable lad who has been confined to light duties for the next few weeks.

**T**he Sutherland Sharks signing of former Super League Coach of the Year John Turner has certainly raised the odd eyebrow or two. On the hit list of a number of State League clubs, Turner chose the Sharks basically because he felt the setup was ideal and that he could make a positive impact on the club.

Running in conjunction with a five-year plan, the club is well on the way to turning their fortunes around and with current Head Coach Billy McColl adding

**J**ust when Bonnyrigg Coach Greg Woodhouse thought he had a full strength squad for the first time this season, someone just has to go and get themselves injured to ruin it for him.

This time it's skipper Javier Mancino causing the problems with a leg injury that will see the midfielder sidelined for up to 6 weeks. John Kyriazopoulos has also been touched and go in recent weeks recovering from an ankle problem.

**B**ankstown City held a fundraiser BBQ at Jensen Park on Sunday 20th January 2002.

All proceeds were donated to the Bushfire Appeal.

**T**he AGM of the Parramatta Melita Eagles Soccer Club Ltd was held on Sunday January 13th and with that, elections for a new Board.

Long serving President Doris Drewery did not seek re-election after a stint of five years in the role and was presented with a basket of flowers by Jason Holmes as recognition for her work. The new Eagles board is as follows; President Vincent Balzan, Secretary Alex Kowalij, Purchasing Manager John Agius, Soccer Manager George Ellul, Maintenance



Sutherland's Peter Feehan: Out with a broken collarbone

Manager Charles Galea, Social Organiser Alfred Cutajar, Directors John Comito, Victor Mula and Charles Vassallo.

**L**ast year's Under 19 Player of the Year and captain of this year's competition leaders, Marc Falzon, was promoted to first grade in the recent match against St. George and made an immediate impression on all who saw him.

Playing as an attacking midfielder he was quickly involved and started the move that led to the Coasties opening goal. His performance will certainly put the pressure on some of the regular players in future matches.

Another two young Coasties players to look out for are under 19 vice-captain Scott Jones, who plays full back and is in the same mould as first grade star Dane Hokin, and striker Peter Becklar who had a late

bid to arrest a seven game slump. Moving into the role is Laki Konistis, who is also currently the Club Administrator of the Berries.

A former player with club Konistis has a wide coaching background at both senior and junior level and is certain to add some stability to a club that has been on uncertain footing in recent weeks.

"It is truly an honour to be asked by the current Board to step into a difficult time at Canterbury in the hope of turning things around," said Konistis. "Canterbury is a great foundation club and deserves to be much higher than where it lies at present."

There is already a very good squad of players at the club and I am certain things will change for the better. Another key factor will be our return to our home ground at Henson Park, which has been closed for renovations these past two months. And look out for the Berries once we get back on Henson!"

**S**t. George has just announced the signing of a new major sponsor. The St. George Rowing Club is now on board and is proving a

popular 'watering hole' for players, officials and fans after match days. The Rowing Club is also putting up a weekly prize for a man of the match award which will go to the best player as selected by Head Coach Manny Spanoudakis at both home and away games. "It's just a little added incentive for the boys to play well," said Spanoudakis.

**I**t's been another hectic week on the transfer front and with the deadline for new signings looming large (January 31st), things are expected to be a touch busy at the arrivals and departures lounge.

Blacktown has parted ways with striker Darren Iocca. Replacing Iocca in the Blacktown line-up will be former Marconi defender Mike Smith. Hussein Jomaa has been released by Canterbury as have Pat Darvill and Leo Carle from the Bulls squad. Huseyin Bayhan is a new addition to the Canterbury squad while Bruno Beddoni is now in the Saints colours. And if that is hard enough to get your head around, Bankstown has a new under 19s coach in Bruno Jasieczek Von Castello and Steve Lazzari has left the Belconnen Blue Devils.



Coasties' Marc Falzon

Iocca and Carle were late signings by Bankstown before the kick-off of Round 11.

**T**his weekend will be a big one in Canberra. Not because it is the Australia Day weekend, but that the annual Saint Sava festival, where the Serbian community of Australia gets together, will be taking place in the Nation's capital.

And along with this is the Belconnen Blue Devils clash with Bonnyrigg White Eagles. It is expected to be a big game with a quite a crowd, and maybe a record for a NSWPL regular season fixture.



Steve Lazzari departs Belconnen.

### Leichhardt Tigers

VS

### Fairfield Bulls



**KICK-OFF: 5pm (1st grade only), Sunday 27 January 2002**

**VENUE: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt**

**\*\*Grade 19 to play 27/2/02, 7pm, Lambert Park**

**L**eichhardt are definitely one of the sides to beat in this year's competition and a few pundits have even suggested they have the cattle to go all the way this year.

But between here and the semi-finals they have to make sure they take on and beat all comers if they are to make inroads into the Bonnyrigg lead at the top of the competition table.

They host the Bulls who bounced back from their 4-1 rout in Round 10 by defeating Penrith 2-0 at home last week. The club has released Leo Carle and Pat Darvill, but even without these two, they have more than enough firepower to upset the Tigers at home.

**Round One Result:** Fairfield Bulls 0 - Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Karavatakis x2, Picken)

## SQUADS

**TIGERS:** 1. Andrew Crews, 2. Kelvin Foster, 3. Joe Moric, 4. Ross Kethel, 5. Steven Livingstone, 6. Michael Galluzzo, 7. Joe Bruni, 8. James Stubbs-Mills, 9. Allan Picken, 10. Steve Karavatakis, 11. Sam La Rocca, 12. Jeremy Brown, 13. Andrew Falas, 15. Ryan Jones, 16. Anthony Tesoro, 17. Jason Lal, 20. John Paul Boutros, 23. Derek Poimer. **Coach:** Les De Celis

**BULLS:** 1. Frank Mikuetic, 3. Mathew Dihm, 4. Paul Bourke, 6. Paul Richardson, 7. Ray Younis, 8. Stewart Van Bentum, 9. Marc Hoenselaars, 10. Mathew Borg, 11. Richard Harrison, 12. Tom Maric, 13. Adam Snyder, 14. Ismael Arrarte, 16. Andy Ravanellio, 17. Craig Sharpley, 19. Jason Connolly, 20. Ali Akbal, 21. Fernando Pellegrino. **Coach:** Craig Sharpley

**LEICHHARDT TIGERS** are proudly sponsored by Continental Tyres and Western Suburbs Leagues Club

## NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

**PRODUCTION:** Arvind Hickman, Emma Nwaneri, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly

**CO-ORDINATOR:** Binesh Mudaliar

**WRITERS:** Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburgt, Carlos Furtado

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** ★ All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

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**GLENWOOD NSW 2768**

**Phone: (02) 9629 1800**





# NSW Premier League



## CLUB FOCUS

# Sutherland Sharks: The sleeping giant to awaken

Following the Sharks stunning coup in securing John Turner for the next five seasons, this week we look at just four of the stories to emerge in what could in ten years time, be remembered as the decision which awoke a sleeping giant in Australian soccer.

### Billy McColl (First Grade Coach)

There came a point last year where I said, That's it. I am sick of losing. Something needed to change because I was not happy being involved with a club that ran last all the time.

We needed a person, a coach that could generate drive. By this I mean, having a proven track record to take a club that was nowhere and lead them to the top. That man was John Turner.

Once John was on board, I went to the Sutherland Sharks Committee, and said Okay, I've got a guy that will bring the glory back to the Shire, but we need to start generating the funds to pay John and the players that he will attract. It's a fact of NSW Premier League life, that the players that will win silverware for you need to be attracted.

I'm on the Sutherland Sharks Committee as the Football Administrator but I WILL make sure that there are funds coming into the club's bank account to help John out on the park.

At Sutherland, we're committed to looking at the bigger picture. John Turner is an important part of the whole regeneration of the sport in this area. The Sharks would like to work closely with the Sutherland Shire Junior

Soccer Association, the Olympic Sharks, perhaps Leeds United FC and also our new State League team, the Southern Star Sharks.

### Richard May (Sutherland Sharks President)

When Billy McColl came to me and said I've got John Turner my immediate question was Why? Billy said, I can't do anymore with the players that I have.

We need a high profile coach to start attracting some name players.

The motion was put before the Sutherland Sharks Committee on Friday 11 January 2002 and 24 hours John and I were shaking hands before the press in the Seymour Shaw club rooms.

The Committee know full well the extra financial burden, involved in such a decision. BUT, let me say that John is not that dear. We've paid a lot more to some of our previous coaches. Having said this, we do expect to raise more funds. It's all well and good to have a sound club structure and sensible business plan but when you're not winning it just makes things a bit harder when you approach sponsors for support. When the wins start piling up, I am expecting the sponsors to come knocking on our door.

We haven't had a coach of John Turner's profile since John Watkiss left in the 1980s. I expect increased takings at the gate, purely because of John Turner's name.

What must be said here is that Billy McColl is still very much part of the club. He will be the Football/Teams Administrator and will do a lot of behind-the-scenes work for John Turner such as approaching players and negotiating contracts.

Everyone at Sutherland Sharks is comfortable with the situation and looking forward to re-visiting our glory years.

### John Turner (The New Coach)

Honestly speaking I was a surprised when Billy McColl called me and said, Do you want the Sutherland job?

It's not often a coach calls another coach and says replace me. Billy then told me that he was taking up the Football Administrators role at the club.

I was only half interested at first because I've just bought a waterfront property on the South

Coast but the critical deciding factor was the challenge of taking Sutherland to the top. Any club that has patience, motivation and the right administration can reach the top. I've got the job for 5 years but I'll make the Sharks a force within 3 years.

I have a lot of faith in Sutherland Sharks as well and that's important to me, which is why I've brought along my own manager, Bob Stallard and assistant coach, Vince Lettieri. I won't be looking over my shoulder when I'm at Sutherland.

I will be coaching Hakoah in the winter but my burning desire is to coach the Sharks. I wish I were taking the Sharks job tomorrow. I'll be looking for 1) young players who want to play Premier League 2) players in the Super League who are good enough to play in the Premier League 3) players who have shown loyalty to me in the past and 4) players who I have a good relationship with. If players are looking to line their pockets with money, then Sutherland is definitely the wrong club.

### Mark Smith (President of Southern Star Sharks)

The Southern Star Sharks have expressed an interest in joining the New South Wales Soccer Federation's State League Division Four for season 2002.

The way it stands at the moment, a player living in this area and wanting to play State League has really only one option, that being the Sutherland Sharks. The Southern Star Sharks would mean a lot more opportunities for young players in this region. The



Billy McColl: The man who recruited John Turner to Sutherland.

Southern Star Sharks see themselves as a nursery club to the Sutherland Sharks where some of their under 19 players can be blooded against older and more experienced players.

Our goal in the first season, should we be accepted, is to build and establish a platform for on-

going development, obtain the support of the local community and obviously to win the Division Four Premiership.

All players are welcome to trial with the club on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Seymour Shaw Park.



The Southern Star Sharks.



John Turner: Arguably the best coach in NSW.





# NSW Premier League



## SCOREBOARD

ROUND 11

### PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

<b>BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 1</b> (Goce Trposki 66m)	<b>C'BURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC ..2</b> (Greg Collins 57m, Andy Amegashie 80m)
<b>BONNYRIGG WE .....2</b> (Jim Aschner 62m, Dave Harding 91m)	<b>CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 1</b> (Peter Preston 92m)
<b>ST. GEORGE SAINTS ....0</b>	<b>BELCONNEN BD .....3</b> (Daniel Macor 52m/60m pen, Daniel Camara 74m)
<b>FAIRFIELD BULLS .....2</b> (Ray Younis 15m, Paul Richardson 78m)	<b>PENRITH PANTHERS .....0</b>
<b>BLACKTOWN CITY .....2</b> (Steve Riches 21m, Damon Langan 58m pen)	<b>SUTHERLAND SHARKS ...2</b> (Alex Pfrengle 33m, Marino Musumeci 73m)
<b>LEICHHARDT TIGERS ....1</b> (Andrew Falas 87m)	<b>PARRAMATTA EAGLES ...4</b> (Danial Cummins 63m/71m, Jim Bakis 78m, Paul O'Grady 86m)

### UNDER 19

<b>ST GEORGE SAINTS ....3</b>	<b>BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS .1</b>
<b>FAIRFIELD BULLS .....1</b>	<b>PENRITH PANTHERS .....0</b>
<b>BONNYRIGG WE .....1</b>	<b>CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 0</b>
<b>BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 0</b>	<b>C'BURY M'VILLE .....1</b>
<b>BLACKTOWN CITY .....7</b>	<b>SUTHERLAND SHARKS ...2</b>

Please note that the Leichhardt Tigers v Parramatta Eagles match has been rescheduled for Wednesday 13 February, 7pm at Lambert Park

## TABLES

### FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	10	1	0	30	9	31
Parramatta Eagles	11	8	0	3	34	14	24
Leichhardt Tigers	11	7	2	2	20	16	23
Fairfield Bulls	11	6	2	3	17	19	20
Belconnen Blue Devils	11	6	1	4	25	15	19
Blacktown City Demons	11	5	2	4	26	19	17
Bankstown City Lions	11	4	3	4	19	24	15
Canterbury Marrickville	11	3	2	6	13	20	11
Central Coast Coasties	11	2	3	6	9	22	9
Penrith Panthers	11	1	5	5	13	18	8
Sutherland Sharks	11	1	2	8	12	25	5
St George Saints	11	0	3	8	6	23	3

### UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	11	8	1	2	28	7	25
Leichhardt Tigers	10	7	1	2	21	7	22
Blacktown City Demons	11	7	1	3	24	14	22
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	1	3	15	11	19
Fairfield Bulls	11	5	3	3	19	17	18
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	11	5	1	5	15	19	16
Belconnen Blue Devils	11	4	2	5	25	24	14
Canterbury Marrickville	10	3	3	4	14	15	12
Penrith Panthers	11	3	3	5	13	14	12
St George Saints	10	3	2	5	9	20	11
Sutherland Sharks	11	2	0	9	16	33	6
Bankstown City Lions	11	2	0	9	6	24	6

### TOP SCORERS

- 12 Jimmy Aschner (BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES)
- 10 Daniel Macor (BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS)
- 9 Jim Bakis (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)
- 8 Anthony Mondello (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)
- 8 Goce Trposki (BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS)

## Bankstown City Lions in Action



Steven Dimitrievski



Damien Luksic



Freddy Umlil



Paul Wearne





# NSW Premier League



## 2002 OCEANIA UNDER 16 TOURNAMENT



JANUARY 15-24, 2002

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### THE DRAW



GROUND NO	DATE	MATCH NO	KICK OFF TIME	POOL	TEAM A	TEAM B	GROUND NO	DATE	MATCH NO	KICK OFF TIME	POOL	TEAM A	TEAM B
2	15th Jan	1	2:30	A	Samoa	Cook Islands	2	21st Jan	21	6:00	A	AUSTRALIA	Tonga
2	15th Jan	2	4:30	A	Solomon Is	AUSTRALIA	2	21st Jan	22	4:00	A	Cook Is.	Solomon Is.
	15th Jan			A	Tonga	Bye		21st Jan			A	Samoa	Bye
1	15th Jan	3	1:45	B	PNG	New Caledonia	1	21st Jan	23	2:00	B	Vanuatu	New Caledonia
1	15th Jan	4	3:45	B	Vanuatu	A. Samoa	1	21st Jan	24	4:00	B	N. Zealand	PNG
1	15th Jan	5	5:45	B	Fiji	New Zealand	1	21st Jan	25	6:00	B	A. Samoa	Fiji
1	16th Jan	6	6:00	A	Samoa	Solomon Is.	1	22nd Jan	27	2:00	11th	6th placed	Local Youth Side
1	16th Jan	7	4:00	A	Tonga	Cook Islands					Pool B		
	16th Jan			A	AUSTRALIA	Bye	1	22nd Jan	28	4:00	9th/10th	5th placed	5th placed
2	16th Jan	8	2:00	B	A. Samoa	New Zealand					Pool A	Pool B	
2	16th Jan	9	4:00	B	Fiji	New Caledonia	1	22nd Jan	29	6:00	S/F 4	3rd placed	4th placed
2	16th Jan	10	6:00	B	PNG	Vanuatu					Pool A	Pool B	
	17th Jan		REST		DAY		2	22nd Jan	30	2:00	S/F 3	3rd placed	4th placed
2	18th Jan	11	6:00	A	Cook Is.	AUSTRALIA					Pool B	Pool A	
2	18th Jan	12	4:00	A	Tonga	Samoa	2	22nd Jan	31	4:00	S/F 2	1st placed	2nd placed
	18th Jan			A	Solomon Is.	Bye					Pool A	Pool B	
1	18th Jan	13	4:00	B	PNG	Fiji	2	22nd Jan	32	6:00	S/F 1	1st placed	2nd placed
1	18th Jan	14	6:00	B	N. Zealand	Vanuatu					Pool B	Pool A	
1	18th Jan	15	2:00	B	N. Caledonia	A. Samoa		23rd Jan		REST		DAY	
1	19th Jan	16	6:00	A	Solomon Is.	Tonga	2	24th Jan	33	10:00	9th/10th	5th placed	5th placed
1	19th Jan	17	4:00	A	AUSTRALIA	Samoa					Pool A	Pool B	
	19th Jan			A	Cook Is.	Bye	2	24th Jan	34	11:30	7th/8th	Loser Match 29	Loser Match 30
2	19th Jan	18	6:00	B	Vanuatu	Fiji	2	24th Jan	35	1:00	5th/6th	Winner Match 29	Winner Match 30
2	19th Jan	19	4:00	B	A. Samoa	PNG	2	24th Jan	36	2:30	3rd/4th	Loser Match 31	Loser Match 32
2	19th Jan	20	2:00	B	N. Caledonia	New Zealand	2	24th Jan	37	4:00	1st/2nd	Winner Match 31	Winner Match 32
	20th Jan		REST		DAY								

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# NSW Premier League



## Bankstown City 1 C'bury-M'ville 2

By Claire Killeen

**A**fter hitting their stride in the second half, Canterbury Marrickville Berries defeated the Bankstown City Lions 2-1 with goalkeeper, Les Bihari the stand out at Jensen Park, Saturday night.

Though the Berries did deserve the win, it came on the back of mistakes from the Bankstown side rather than a purely gritty display.

The Lions dominated play in the first half, bamboozling the Berries using their whole half and all players to attack.

With the Bankstown side playing so well, it felt like it would be a formality of when the Lions would score.

The Lions had more than a half a dozen chances



Olympic's hero, Andy Amegashie.

to convert; yet all went wide or were thwarted by the efforts of Bihari.

Bihari was the centre of attention with the Lions circling looking for the elusive goal. Yet the goalkeeper kept his cool and did the job at hand.

After the half time break a hungrier Berries pack greeted the Lions and within 12 minutes, the Berries did what no side had done in the first half, they scored.

Greg Collins, received a short kick after some fancy lead up work from the Berries around the box and fired it into the back of the net, taking the lead in the 57th minute.

The goal seemed to fire up the Lions who replied in the 66th minute with a goal from Goce Trposki after substitutions were made.

Replacement, Adam Mamoliti crossed the ball to Trposki waiting close to the net, which eluded Bihari to equalise the scores.

Ten minutes from full time, the Berries sealed the win with Andy Amegashie finding the net.

With little defence crowding the goalmouth, Amegashie found it a formality connecting a beautifully timed ball with an equally timed kicked to give the Berries the lead.

**BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 1** (Goce Trposki, 66)  
**CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC 2** (Greg Collins, 57; Andy Amegashie, 80)

**Lions:** Z. Josevski, R. Luksic, P. Wearne, G. Issa, G. Trposki, A. Trposki, F. Umlil, D. Luksic (L. Carle), C. Luff (I. McDonald), S. Dimitrievski (A. Mamoliti), D. Ki Kim  
**Olympic:** L. Bihari, M. D'Alessandro, J. Manolopoulos, A. Markopoulos, J. Talceviski (A. Salim), G. Collins, N. Alemic, A. Kotsopoulos, A. Amegashie, M. Kladis

**Referee:** Vic Gauci  
**Assist Refs:** Greg Leverton, Les Spagnol  
**4th Official:** Brian Seymour



## Blacktown City 2 Sutherland Sharks 2

By Greg Stock

**S**utherland Sharks twice came from a goal down to grab a valuable point off Blacktown City in an open and entertaining match at the Gabbie Stadium.

Both teams had chances to score early in the game when firstly Blacktown's David Reid was denied by Mitchell Blowes when he only had the 'keeper to beat, and then Monte Pfrengle was likewise through on goal but Demons custodian John Crawley was also equal to the task.

However the home side soon breached the Sharks defence when Steve Riches got a yard ahead of his marker to power home a well-flighted Kain Rastall corner from 8 yards. The goal coming in such a simple and straight-forward fashion that it may have seemed to Demons fans that more goals were just a matter of time.

If so they weren't counting on the fighting qualities of the young Sharks side and it wasn't long



Sharks' goalkeeper, Mitchell Blowes.

before the parity was restored. Monte Pfrengle showing a turn of speed to get to the by-line and deliver a perfect pullback for his older brother Alex to side foot home his first goal for the club.

On the hour mark Zlatko Donev weaved his way into the box before being impeded by sturdy defender Dean Heffernan with referee Mark Hester pointing to the spot despite the protestations of Heffernan and his fellow defenders. Captain and club stalwart Damon Langan stepped up to easily convert what is a rare goal for the evergreen defender.

Once again the Sharks had to come from behind and once again they did so through the endeavours of Monte Pfrengle. Pfrengle using both skill and strength to pass several defenders before, with only Crawley to beat, unselfishly laying off for a tap-in by substitute Marino Musumeci. Incredibly the 17-year-old Musumeci scoring with his first touch having been on the field only a matter of some 30 seconds.

This saw the Demons turn up the heat in the dying minutes of the game as they laid siege to the Sharks goal in a desperate attempt to grab a winner. A mixture of desperate defending and shots being sprayed wide, albeit narrowly, saw the Sharks hang on for a deserved share of the points.

**Blacktown City 2** (Steve Riches 21' Damon Langan 58' pen)  
**Sutherland Sharks 2** (Alex Pfrengle 33' Marino Musumeci 73')

**Blacktown City:** John Crawley, Ben Willard, Damon Langan (Paul Yates), Paul Dee, Kain Rastall, Naoki Imaaya, Jimmy Nikas (Luciano Berbis), Zlatko Donev, Steven Riches, David Reid, Mark Hagger (Bishara Stephan)

**Sutherland Sharks:** Mitchell Blowes, Alen Stajic, Ben Short, Dean Heffernan, Jamie Danaskos, Monte Pfrengle (Bill Petrovski), Alex Pfrengle (Marino Musumeci), Steve Cklamovski, Kris Karanasos (Carlo Musumeci), Colin McAusland, Kire Josevski  
**Cautions:** Dee (bc), Heffernan (ss)

**Referee:** M. Hester  
**Assistant Refs:** E. Horvath & P. Verinder  
**Fourth Official:** P. Apostolou



## Bonnyrigg WE 2 Central Coast 1

By Lezette Isaac

**T**he Bonnyrigg White Eagles still remain the only undefeated side in the competition, but were far from their best as they came out 2-1 winners over the Coasties at the Serbian Centre on Saturday night.

Two-second half goals by goal scoring machine Jimmy Aschner and David Harding sealed the match for the home team, who welcomed back goalie Fernando Greco from injury and Tayfun Devrimol from suspension.

The competition leaders were on the back foot early, as the Coasties made all the plays early in match. Central Coast player Peter Preston almost gave his side a perfect start. Preston caught the defence napping, hitting the ball across the face of the goal, only to have it waved away.

Both sides had limited chances in the first

half, with most of game being played in the middle of the field. Both teams went into the sheds scoreless at half time.

As they did in the first half the Coasties came out firing penetrating the ball forward. Their hard work almost paid off in the 53rd minute when Damien Smith struck the ball beautifully 10 metres out right in front, only for it to hit the post.

Despite the gallant effort by the Coasties, the White Eagles have proved all year why they are the side to beat. Key striker Jimmy Aschner added to his tally of goals, breaking the deadlock in the 62nd minute.

Devrim Huseyin crossed the ball to Aschner who was waiting right in front of goal. Aschner took the ball; side stepped the defender slamming it right in the middle of the goal.

Having secured the early break, the home team had a spring in its step, running down loose balls and finding gaps in the Central Coast defence. Bonnyrigg's second goal came

in injury time. David Harding dazzled the crowd with his footwork, beating two defenders before slotting the ball into the net

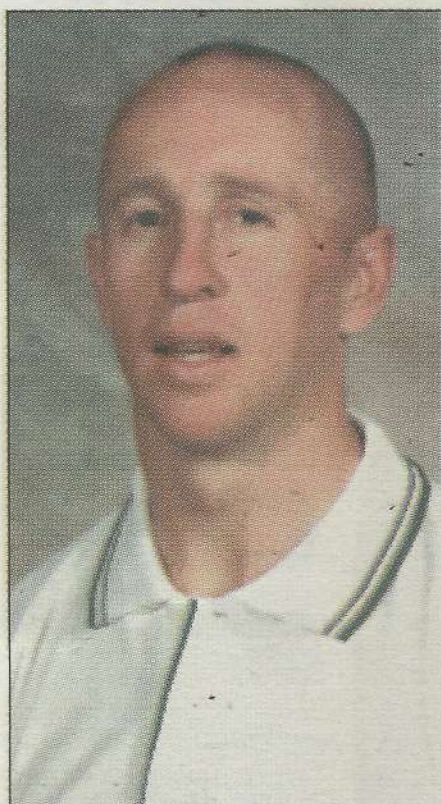
Peter Preston scored a well deserved goal for his efforts in the dying seconds of the game but it was all too late as the White Eagles extended their winning streak and keep a tight stranglehold on the 2001-2 Premier League competition.

**Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2** (J Aschner 62, D Harding 91)  
**Central Coast Coasties 1** (P Preston 92)

**Bonnyrigg White Eagles:** F Greco S Utjesenovic, D Huseyin, V Tomasevic, T Devrimol S Knight, D Harding, C Bradley M Hawrysiuk (J Ghiso 89) J Aschner, R Gomez (B Dragas 61)

**Central Coast Coasties:** D Moore, S Matthews, M Daley (K Freeman 82), D Hokin, A Clark, P Ritchie, M Falzon (S Jones 87) D Smith (R Metcalf 73), A Peatey, P Preston, M Williams

**Yellow card:** P Ritchie 75 min  
**Referee:** S Przydacz  
**Assist Ref:** M Johnson  
**Assist Ref:** M Nemorin  
**4th Official:** J Barnes



Coasties' best, Peter Preston.





# NSW Premier League



## Fairfield Bulls 2



## Penrith Panthers 0

By Robbie Bartolillo

**B**uoyed on by a parochial home crowd, Fairfield Bulls retained fourth position, beating Penrith Panthers 2-0 at Nineveh Field.

In a match marred with niggling off the ball incidents, the Bulls displayed their intentions immediately, through striking guns Mathew Borg and Marc Hoenselaars, who constantly attracted two and three defenders. This enabled Stewart Van Bentum and Adam Snyder, the opportunity to exploit the flanks, their explosive pace at times bamboozling the Panthers defence.

In the 15th minute, following Mathew Dihm's timely injection from sweeper, the Bulls took a deserved lead, with midfielder Ray Younis slotting away a pin-point Van Bentum cross, leaving Panthers' keeper Chad Taylor stranded.

With Coach Craig Sharpley continuously motivating his chargers from the bench, the Bulls were unfortunate not to go two up in the 21st minute, with



"Paul Richardson scored with his first touch, directing his scintillating free-kick into the top left corner, leaving both (Chad) Taylor and Panther team-mates dumbfounded."

crafty midfielder Snyder denied by some Taylor heroics.

In the 28th minute, somewhat against the run of play, the persistent Panthers nearly snatched an unlikely equaliser, with Tim O'Connell eventually flaying his shot over Frank Mikuletic's cross bar, proceeding some innovative team work by Jason Sciberras and Rod Hutchinson.

The second half witnessed a battle of tenacity, involving Penrith's Martin McCaffery and the Bulls Andrew Ravello. The two were their respective sides attacking instigators, especially McCaffery, who shares a remarkable playing style to Gianfranco Zola. Indeed, it was the pocket dynamo that created a chance for Sciberras, who blasted his shot wide of Frank Mikuletic's goalmouth, in the 65th minute.

But the Bulls, in particular impenetrable defenders Dihm and Tom Maric, displayed supreme levels of resilience, their mere presence no doubt inspiring a second goal.

In the 78th minute, following a foul on Ravello, substitute Paul Richardson scored with his first touch, directing his scintillating free-kick into the top left corner, leaving both Taylor and Panther team-mates dumbfounded.

Bulls' Coach Sharpley was delighted with his team's performance. "After last week, to lose 4-1 and come back tonight and win is great. It's a good result, I'm very happy."

**Fairfield Bulls 2** (Ray Younis 15th, Paul Richardson 78th)

**Penrith Panthers 0**

**Bulls:** Mikuletic, Dihm, Bourke, Younis, Van Bentum (Harrison 60th), Hoenselaars (Richardson 77th), Borg, Maric, Snyder, Ravello, Connolly

**Panthers:** Taylor, Giometti (Hinton 77th), Wells, Marosevic, Hutchinson, O'Connell, Noble (Gardiner 67th), Sciberras, McCaffery, Boyd (El Ali 60th)

**Cautions:** Connolly (39th), Borg (51st), Gardiner (78th)

**Referee:** Boyd McGregor

**Officials:** Rob Kofler, Andrew Kay, Sandro Perticarini



## Leichhardt Tigers 1



## Parramatta Eagles 4

By Greg Stock

**P**arramatta moved to outright second on the Premier League competition table with a second half demolition of the Leichhardt Tigers at Lambert Park last Sunday.

It was one of the best second half performances seen at Lambert Park in many years, as the visitor's rolled right over the top of the home side, to win in a canter.

After a goal-less first half that was short on inspiring moments, the tempo lifted after the break with the Eagles making all the play. Danial Cummins was the chief destroyer, helping himself to two goals and having a hand in one other.

His first came via a deft move with Malcolm Meilak that left him one on one with an advancing Andrew Crews, while his second was laid on by Jim Bakis, when he beat Ross Kethel on the right hand side and laid a perfect ball to Cummins at the



Parramatta Eagles' Danial Cummins.

near post.

Cummins then worked a one two move with Bakis in the 78th minute, which was easily put away, before the large frame of defender Paul O'Grady struck a sweet shot from the edge of the area after being found unmarked at the back post, directly from a corner.

While the Tigers did get a late consolation goal when substitute Andrew Falas found the target in some heavy traffic, they were largely spectators as the Eagles stole centre stage. While Leichhardt competed well in the first half, they seemingly left their customary endeavour in the dressing rooms at halftime, and were cut to pieces by an Eagles midfield that gave no respite.

Cummins was by far and away the best player on the park and was ably assisted by Glenn Sprod and Malcolm Meilak while for the home side James Stubbs-Mills tried hard but sadly, he had few friends.

**Leichhardt Tigers 1** (Falas 87')

**Parramatta Eagles 4** (Cummins 63' 71' Bakis 78' O'Grady 86')

**Leichhardt Tigers:** Andrew Crews, Joe Moric, Ross Kethel, Steve Livingstone, James Stubbs-Mills, Steve Karavatakis, Derek Poimer, Sam La Rocca, Jeremy Brown, Ryan Jones (Allan Picken 68'), Tony Tesoro (Kelvin Foster 6' (Andrew Falas 84'))

**Parramatta Eagles:** Jason Holmes, Geoff Dwyer, Malcolm Meilak (Mauricio Islas 82'), Mark Reveley, Mirko Jurilj, Jimmy Bakis (Anthony Mondello 86'), Glenn Sprod, Paul O'Grady, Ben Delicata (Daniel Kukucka 76'), Geoff Howarth, Danial Cummins

**Cautions:** Poimer (lt) 19' Howarth (pe) 25' Bakis (pe) 36' Kethel (lt) 45' Meilak (pe) 57'

**Referee:** Con Diomis

**Assistant Referees:** Wayne Crabb and Heidi Breeze

**Fourth Official:** Adrian Tamplin



## St George Saints 0



## Belconnen BD 3

By Greg Stock

**B**elconnen moved into outright fifth spot in the Premier League Top Five with a second half demolition of St. George, at St. George Stadium last Saturday night.

With a howling gale blowing north to south at the historical Bestic Street ground, the match was certainly a game of two halves with both sides having a number of chances to take the match. But it would be the visitors who made the most of their opportunities in the second half as they cut loose against a Saints outfit that could barely make it out of their own half.

St. George started with the wind at their backs and had six first half chances to take the lead, but was unable to hit the target.

Camped in the Belconnen defensive quarter for most of the first half, Coach Manny Spanoudakis could do little but shake his head as

**St. George 0**

**Belconnen Blue Devils 3** (Macor 52' 60'pen Camara 74')

**St. George:** Stacy Alogdellis, Nick Boliantitis (Mark Bariamis), Max Sevares, Spyros Kladis, George Maglis, Bruno Beddoni, Achilleas Markopoulos, Nabil Codmani, Bradley Campbell, Miladen Damjanovic (Simon Verrender), Evangelos Petratos

**Belconnen Blue Devils:** Anthony Giannasca, Toplica Popovich, Elliot Zwangobani (Jaime Mauro), Nic Purdue, Shane Lyons, Stephen Kemp, Daniel Macor, David Arranz (Michael Katz), Stewart Camara, Adrian Dowling, Daniel Camara

**Cautions:** Nil

**Referee:** Alex Spiroski

**Assistant Refs:** L. Carlucci & D. Adamopoulos

**Fourth Official:** T. Goodhew

time after time his side continually thought up ways to let the Blue Devils off the hook.

Bruno Beddoni was the main offender with two chances in two minutes at the twenty-minute mark but neither was able to beat the athletic Anthony Giannasca in the Blue Devils goal.

In the second half it was all Belconnen. Using the wind to its fullest potential the visitors posted three second half goals to run away with the game. Daniel Macor capitalised on a defensive error by Nick Boliantitis to knock in his side's first goal in the 52nd minute and backed that up eight minutes later with a penalty when Daniel Camara was cut down in the penalty box in heavy traffic.

The third goal came in the 74th minute when Shane Lyons swung in a deep cross from the right for Daniel Camara to beat Saints goalkeeper Stacey Alogdellis with a free header at the back post. In front of his father, the former rugby league great Cliff Lyons, it was a fitting end to a game in which Lyons was arguably the best on the park.



Daniel Camara sealed three points for the Blue Devils.





# Vieira's Madrid move imminent

**A**rsenal star midfielder, Patrick Vieira reportedly held talks with Real Madrid last week with a view to a transfer to the Spanish capital.

Madrid increased their determined moves to sign Vieira by meeting with his agent Marc Roger in the Spanish capital and outlining their offer.

Vieira, 25, flew back from Madrid to London after the meeting and it is being widely speculated in Spain that he also met senior Real officials.

The leading sports newspaper Marca said that the fee for Vieira, who is under contract to Arsenal until 2005, would be in the region of 42 million euros (£25.8million).

The France midfielder, talked about the prospect of moving to the Bernabeu last month and admitted: "I still have two years on my contract at Arsenal but I'll take the

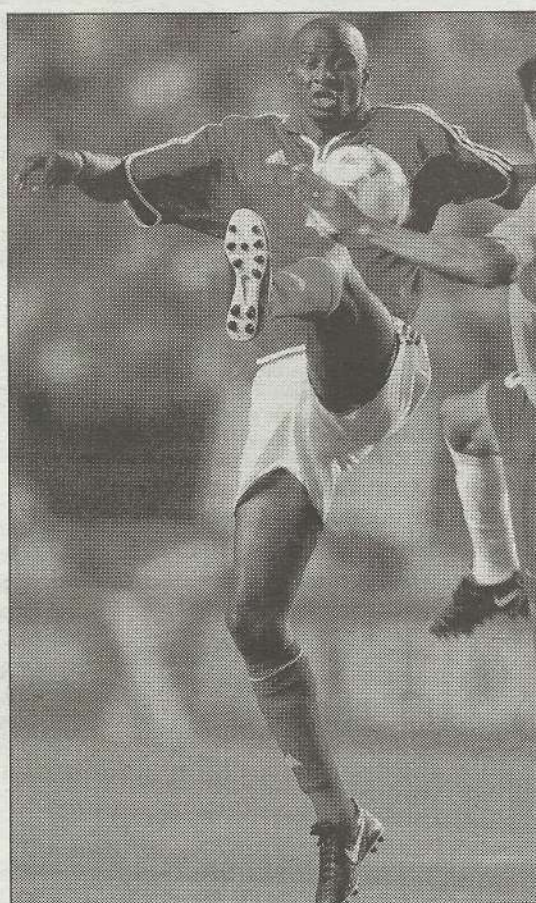
decision before the World Cup, in consultation with Arsene Wenger and the club."

Only last week, Real president Florentino Perez revealed that his director of football Jorge Valdano had identified Vieira as one of his two top targets this summer.

He said: "Valdano has good taste and I'm sure that Vieira and striker Andriy Shevchenko are on his list."

Vieira wants to answer his growing list of suitors, including Manchester United, Juventus and Inter Milan, before the end of this season so that he creates minimum interference with France's attempt to retain the World Cup.

According to reports in the Spanish press, the Arsenal midfielder was accompanied by his two agents and a lawyer as he met Madrid officials, before returning to London.



Patrick Vieira: I'll take a decision before the World Cup.

# Jimmy not for sale, says Chelsea

**C**helsea's managing director Colin Hutchinson told Atletico Madrid to forget trying to sign Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

The Spanish club, who sold the striker to Chelsea for \$45million in the summer of 2000, were reported to be ready to make an audacious bid to take him back.

But Hutchinson said: "Jimmy is happy at Chelsea and does not want to leave."

"Atletico are supposed to have said they would love to have him back but it is nonsense. Jimmy is not for sale and has three and a half years left on his contract."

# Vogts set for Scottish job

**F**ormer Germany coach Berti Vogts is going to be confirmed as the new Scotland coach within the upcoming 10 days, Sky Sports reported.

Vogts, who is presently leading Kuwait, was said to be on short list to take over Scotland national team, following Brown's resignation in November after failing to lead Scotland to the World Cup finals. Brown had earlier stated Vogts would become his successor, despite the fact that former Parma and Borussia Dortmund coach Nevio Scala and Japan boss Philippe Troussier were also on short list to take over the national team.

Meanwhile, Vogts revealed he had told SFA to be ready to have talks with them after the end of Kuwait's Gulf Cup campaign.

"At the end of January I will be ready to speak to the Scottish Federation — or maybe the SFA will come to see my manager in



Berti Vogts

Switzerland or he will go to Scotland.

"I need to wait to hear from the Scottish federation. The Scottish team has a lot of experience and a lot of good young players. The Scottish team must now go for qualification for the European Championship in Portugal, and we will have to wait for the draw on January 25 in Porto."

"I am the manager of Kuwait, I was the manager in Germany and I am very interested in the job in Scotland," said Vogts.

# Media reports anger Liverpool

**L**iverpool stand-in boss Phil Thompson last week launched a blistering attack on sections of the media he claims are trying to unsettle the club.

Thompson is at the helm of the Anfield club while Gerard Houllier recovers from heart surgery, and he feels his efforts to effectively lead the team are being undermined.

Reports have suggested that Houllier's return to Liverpool has met with a setback, but Thompson has dismissed this.

Thompson also angrily denied suggestions Houllier has had to see doctors in Paris, and insisted the Frenchman is taking a more active role as days go by.

Speaking to the Liverpool website about Houllier's reported setback, Thompson said: "That is totally out of order."

"People are trying to suggest that they have contacts in Paris who know Gerard and that they have contacts with Gerard's doctors."

"Gerard has not seen a doctor in Paris. He has never consulted a French doctor. On the day that report came out, Gerard was on the phone with me, picking the team and being as much involved as he has been — three, four or five phonecalls a day. Not a problem."

"Gerard is coming on, he's getting stronger. And it stimu-

lates him, and helps him, to know what's going on over here."

Thompson has come in for criticism in recent weeks, with the team's recent alarming slump in form signaling an end to his honeymoon period.

It has been suggested that Houllier's involvement is undermining his efforts, but Thompson totally dismissed this.

When asked if Houllier's involvement was a problem, he added: "Not at all!"

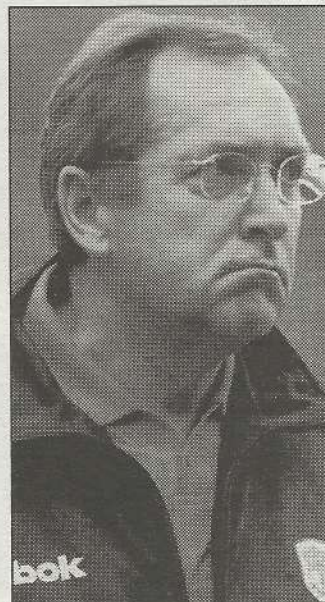
I enjoy his input. His amount of knowledge is absolutely incredible. I value every conversation I have with Gerard, and I always have done from when he was able to make phonecalls

after his operation.

"In the early days I drip-fed him information when I felt it was right. Now we discuss things all the time about training, about how the sessions should be applied, how the squad should be picked and how we should travel to games."

"Gerard is involved in a lot of things. And if people think that's damaging him, they don't know Gerard Houllier. If people want to quote sources, then they should name them."

The reason they don't is because there are no names. But it's another example of how some people want to destabilise this football club.



Gerard Houllier

# ENGLISH PLAYERS IN FAMILY REUNION

**E**ngland coach Sven Goran Eriksson will attempt to steer England players before they head to the World Cup.

He will invite wives and children to join the squad for a six-day break on the beach so the side can recharge their batteries immediately after the end of the season.

Eriksson is considering three resorts in Spain, Portugal and Dubai as potential sites for the break — with Dubai being the favourite. He decided he wants the squad together earlier than scheduled, so they will now leave on May 13, just two days after the final Premiership matches.

The idea is for the squad and their fam-



Sven Goran Eriksson: English coach.

ilies to fly out in a huge group on their own charter flight, which will give the squad more time to work together and build up even more of an intense team spirit.

England's World Cup base will be on Awaji island off the coast of Japan, where all of England's group games will be played. England will arrive there on May 26 and face Cameroon in the nearby city of Kobe that night in the final warm-up friendly.

The team have to acclimatise to an

eight-hour time difference before they kick off against Sweden on June 2.

Meanwhile, Eriksson has revealed what he considers to be the most crucial moment of his successful year — being beaten by Holland last August. He said: "We needed to get some reality back after all the success beforehand as we had the tie against Germany coming up. And it worked."

England meet the Dutch in a return friendly in Amsterdam on February 13.





## Lazio want Veron back

**L**azio president Sergio Cragnotti admitted last week he was furious at his under-performing team and hinted he was preparing a bid to lure Argentinian midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron back to the club from English Premiership champions Manchester United.

After witnessing his side's elimination at the hands of AC Milan in the Italian Cup quarter-finals — the last realistic hope of silverware for Lazio — Cragnotti made it clear that changes were imperative.

"Next year (season) we will see what happens," Cragnotti said. "This team was built for the top, we will see where we finish and then draw the necessary conclusions. We believe in this strategy but some have failed to respond to the call.

"If it carries on like this we will have to

review everything."

That would seem to be a warning shot at the likes of Spanish midfielder Gaizka Mendieta and Italian international Stefano Fiore who have both performed dismally since arriving from Valencia and Udinese.

Veron, the talisman of Lazio's 1999-2000 championship-winning side, is sorely missed in Rome and asked if he would take back the United player Cragnotti said: "He is a great player. We will see."

Last week Veron, who joined United from Lazio last year, said he was keeping the door open for a possible return to the Roman club.

Lazio's only remaining hope for this season is a place in next season's Champions League with their hopes of a title challenge receding as they lie 14 points behind leaders AS Roma with a game in hand.



An employee of the wax museum in Madrid measures the head of Real Madrid star player Zinedine Zidane.

## Power tussle engulfs FIFA

**T**he bitter battle over the future of the FIFA presidency threatens to plunge football's governing world body into the worst political crisis in its history.

Less than a week after current president Sepp Blatter put himself forward for another four years, powerful opponents are seeking to prevent the 65-year-old from winning a second term, FIFA sources told AFP.

An alliance joining senior figures from Europe, Africa and Asia are all involved.

At the heart of the dispute is the state of FIFA's finances.

Blatter, who replaced Brazil's Joao Havelange as president in an acrimonious election four years ago, insists that all is fine despite the dramatic collapse of ISL, FIFA's marketing partner, and the need for FIFA to take out a 420 million dollar bond from Credit Suisse First Boston.

A large number of FIFA's executive committee believe the organisation may be heading for financial disaster and have called for a full audit of the books. Blatter agreed last December but FIFA officials last week were unable to say when the audit of the 2001 books by KPMG will be completed.

So nasty have relations between the two camps become that several committee members have been looking into the possibility of impeaching Blatter — a move unheard of in FIFA's history.

Even relations in FIFA headquarters in Zurich have become severely strained.

"There are now three camps — Blatter and his advisors, the group around general-secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen and the marketing group. It is awful," one senior FIFA official told AFP.

"Zen-Ruffinen is supposed to

be general-secretary but scores of dossiers are being kept from him. It is madness."

When Blatter rose from general-secretary to the top job in Paris in 1998 amid allegations of vote-buying, a charge strenuously denied by Blatter, he was hoping he could swing the executive committee

But the majority, led by

UEFA president Lennart Johansson who lost to Blatter in Paris, have become more and more disillusioned by Blatter's autocratic rule.



(CAF), and South Korea's powerful FIFA vice-president Chung Mong-Joon.

Blatter has rejected all attempts by the executive committee to find out how much he earns as president. One published report puts his salary at 24 million dollars over six years.

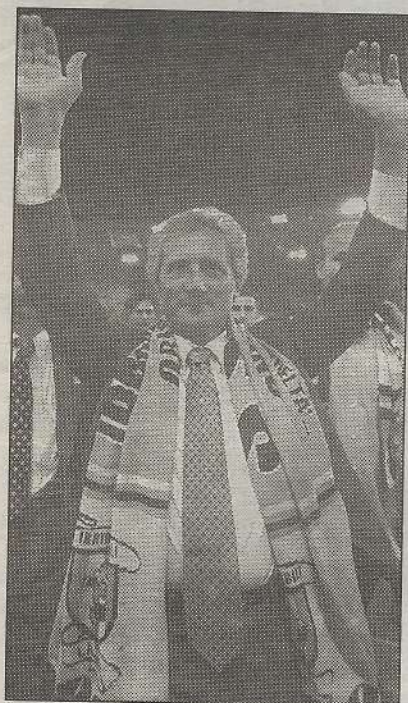
Blatter says his salary is between him and FIFA's finance committee headed by Argentina's Julio Grondona but at least one senior figure in the committee has privately admitted he had no idea what the pres-

ident earns.

The growing dispute could explode in the next two weeks according to one source.

"Certain moves are afoot that could bring it all to a climax," a senior international football administrator told AFP this week.

"Expect something to happen before the end of January."



Sergio Cragnotti: Lazio boss.

## ELBER TO END CAREER AT BAYERN

**B**razilian striker Elber wants to see out his career at Bayern Munich and would like to retain his ties to the German club when he then returns to Brazil.

"For me, it's just a matter of Bayern and Brazil," he told sports news agency SID. "When my contract runs out in 2004, I'll be 32."

"Assuming I'm still performing well and feel good, I've promised my wife I'd stay one or two more years with Bayern."

Elber, joint second highest striker in this season's Champions League and likely to be part of Brazil's World Cup challenge this year, joined the German and European champions from VfB Stuttgart in 1997.

He complained last week after he was fined 25,000 euro for arriving late at Bayern's training camp, saying he had been caring for his sick father.

But the 29-year-old said on Wednesday that his family were very happy living in southern Germany.

"I'll end my career here. Then I can imagine serving Bayern as a talent scout in my home Brazil," Elber said.



Fiorentina's new coach Ottavio Bianchi at his first training session last week. Bianchi took over from Roberto Mancini.

## Ravanelli turns down Derby job

**F**abrizio Ravanelli quashed speculation last week that he is about to be catapulted into the vacant manager's post at relegation-threatened Derby, saying he has no interest in taking over at Pride Park.

At a hastily arranged press conference, the former Lazio and Italian international striker ruled himself out of contention to replace Colin Todd who was sacked on Monday after just three months in charge.

Ravanelli said: "I want only to play. I think that is now possible because I am fit."

"In my head and my heart I want only to play football. I want to score goals on the pitch for Derby. I do not think it is possible to be player-manager. I want to keep Derby up."

He added: "I want my concentration to be on the playing side. I just want to do a good

job here."

Asked about Todd's sacking, he said: "It is something that happens in football."

"It has nothing to do with the players. It is something the club decided. I had great respect for Colin as a man."

Derby chief executive Keith Loring said Ravanelli had never been offered the manager's job.

"He (Ravanelli) is a very emotional person and does not have the emotion to do two jobs."

"If you make a decision to change a manager people will speculate. It can sometimes lead to misunderstandings."

Todd was sacked following a poor run of results which have left the club in the Premiership relegation zone.

Derby are instead expected to give reserve-team manager Billy McEwan a chance to stake a claim for the manager's job while they mull over a long-term replacement.



## RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo (In Rome)

Everywhere one goes here in Italy there is coverage of soccer: television, radio, newspapers and magazines are full of news. In fact it is so extensive that one hardly knows where to turn.

Last month the RAI network, Italy's leading television channels, purchased the exclusive free-to-air rights of the 2002 World Cup.

RAI is the public broadcaster in Italy with three commercial channels. A bit like Australia's Channels 7, 9 and 10 but all public-owned broadcasters.

The cost of the package was approximately \$A 250 million. One could ask how could a public broadcaster afford such an amount? Easy! They are all commercial channels and the advertisers pay. Furthermore, the networks can charge the top dollar (make that Euro now) because the ratings are first class for a World Cup.

In fact, a personal friend here in Italy, Federico Calcagno, a leading television journalist for RAI, informs me that they are the only public European broadcaster with the exclusive rights.

RAI's three channels and the large Mediaset network of three other commercial television channels (these are owned by a company that belongs to Italian PM and AC Milan President Silvio Berlusconi) are all providing the most extensive Serie A coverage that one could ever imagine.

In fact well past midnight on a Sunday night there are shows that are still analysing the day's play and scrutinising every moment. Video replays are used extensively to highlight all refereeing decisions and panels, made up of journalists and former players and coaches, scrutinise every moment.

The most widely known programme is without doubt one called '90th Minute', of which Calcagno is one of the regular reporters, and it is a bit of an institution on Italian television, RAI 1, on a Sunday evening.

The only thing lacking in Italy, in terms of television, is live coverage of the games on free-to-air. It seems that the pay-per-view channels have a stranglehold on that market.

Radio coverage of games has been an Italian tradition for decades now; every game in the Serie A plus every European fixture involving an Italian team is broadcast.

However, it is the print media that never ceases to amaze me here in Italy. There are three daily papers, La Gazzetta dello Sport, Il Corriere dello Sport and Tuttosport, that are entirely dedicated to sport seven days a week. And, during the soccer season, sport in Italy is not very extensive - it is soccer, soccer and more soccer!

In fact the famous pink broadsheet, La Gazzetta dello Sport, which is also widely available in Australia, ranks as perhaps the leading daily paper in circulation in Italy.

There is also extensive coverage of soccer in the normal daily papers - perhaps even up to eight pages. For instance, La Repubblica (available daily in Australia), Il Corriere della Sera and, here in Rome, Il Messaggero, are full of soccer news.

The coverage of soccer here is comparable to that of say Rugby League, Aussie Rules and Cricket all combined in Australia.

It is little wonder that Italians are crazy for the sport - there is no alternative and it is unavoidable.

♦♦♦♦

Rome is a city well and truly divided when it comes to soccer - about 60% support Roma and the other 40% are supporters of Lazio.

You would never for instance change your allegiances - it would be the equivalent of the Pope moving to the Church of England!

It also helps when Roma are current champions and Lazio were champions the previous year. Furthermore, it gives Roma supporters great joy to think that they took the title away from Lazio.

In the 80's and 90's there was no doubt that the 'soccer capital' of Italy was Milan with both AC Milan and Inter holding the fort. No city had provided two successful clubs like those - that is until the city of Rome in recent years.

This week the game in town that we will be attending is Roma v Piacenza. It is certainly nothing very fancy but that doesn't stop the locals. It was the very same fixture in January three years that I was lucky enough to attend. That day for the record the score was 2-2, with Francesco Totti having a blinder. It was an enthralling game and one can only hope that Sunday's fixture is just as good.



Argentinian forward Claudio Lopez (left) of Lazio is chased by Brazilian Jose Marcelo Ze Maria of Perugia.

## King David lifts Juve

**JUVENTUS 3**  
**ATALANTA 0**

Juventus won their fourth straight league match as French international David Trezeguet scored twice.

Midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi took advantage of a poor clearance by the Atalanta defence to put Juventus ahead in the 34th minute with a long-range lob which beat stranded Atalanta keeper Massimo Taibi.

Five minutes later Trezeguet doubled Juve's advantage from close range after good work from Pavel Nedved.

Trezeguet claimed his second in the 73rd minute when his low shot came out off Taibi's feet but the French striker pounced on the ball for his 13th goal of the season.

**BOLOGNA 3**  
**CHIEVO VERONA 1**

Lamberto Zauli put Bologna ahead five minutes before the break and Chievo then missed a penalty which Christian Manfredini blasted against the bar.

Chievo's problems increased when defender Lorenzo D'Anna was sent off in the 58th minute and Argentine Julio Cruz doubled Bologna's advantage in the 70th minute.

Luigi Beghetto gave Chievo some

hope with a 73rd-minute strike before Zauli scored his second late in injury time to secure the win for Bologna.

**INTER MILAN 2**  
**PARMA 0**

A convincing performance and a vital result for Inter who returned to the top of the Serie A table.

Inter took the early lead through an unlucky own goal by Parma defender Nestor Sensini after a shot from Christian Vieri.

Italy international Vieri secured the win when he unleashed a low shot from 25 metres, giving Parma's former Inter goalkeeper Sebastien Frey no chance.

**LAZIO 5**  
**PERUGIA 0**

First-half goals from Simone Inzaghi and Claudio Lopez sent Lazio on their way before substitute Stefano Fiore, Yugoslav Dejan Stankovic and defender Paolo Negro completed the rout.

But there was one sour note as Lazio lost Argentine striker Hernan Crespo with a thigh injury in the 26th minute and he is likely to be out for at least three weeks.

**LECCE 0**  
**PIACENZA 0**

Piacenza's Dario Hubner and Lecce's Davor Vugrinec both hit the woodwork as Lecce slipped further into trouble with this disappointing result.

**UDINESE 1**  
**AS ROMA 1**

Argentine international Gabriel Batistuta salvaged a point for AS Roma with an 83rd-minute close range strike, cancelling out a brilliant solo effort by Udinese's David Di Michele at the start of the second half.

Udinese missed a great chance to claim a surprise win in the 87th minute when Roma defender Jonathan Zebina brought down Di Michele, but goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli pulled off a fine save to keep out Roberto Muzzi's spot-kick and leave the champions with a point.

**VERONA 1**  
**VENEZIA 0**

A curling left-foot shot from defender Massimo Oddo in the 15th minute gave Verona their fifth consecutive home victory.

Bottom club Venezia had several chances to level but lacked the finishing touch in front of goal and suffered their 13th defeat in 19 games.

**BRESCIA 1**  
**TORINO 2**

Torino came from behind to win their first away match of the season as Marco Ferrante and Simone Vergassola were on target

with late second-half goals.

Brescia had taken the lead eight minutes after the break with a close range header from Andres Yllana.

Torino's Antonino Asta was sent off in injury time for his second bookable offence.

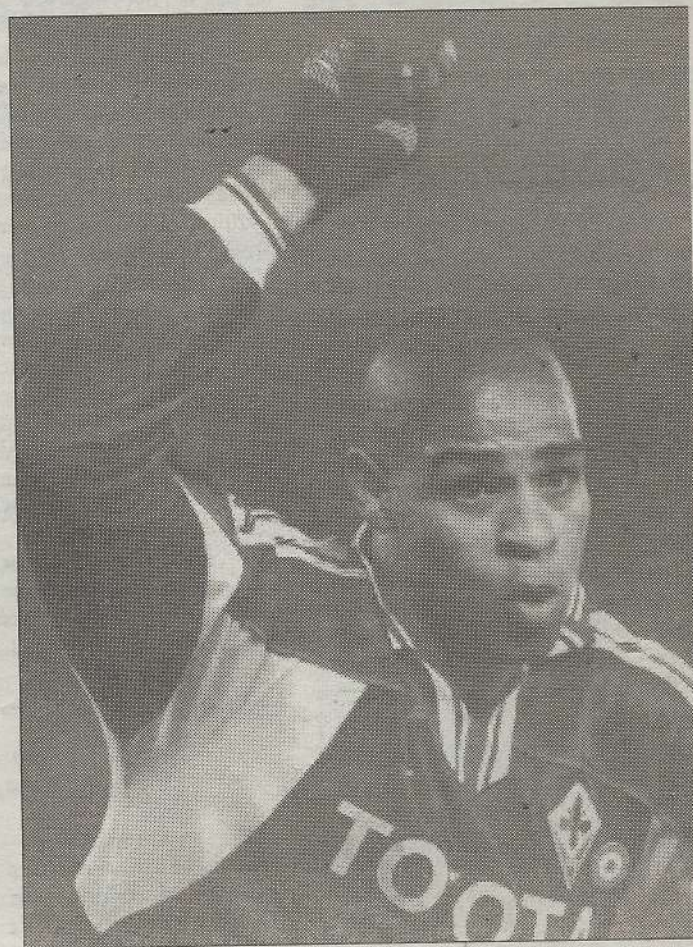
**FIorentina 1**  
**AC Milan 1**

It looked good when Spanish striker Jose Mari headed AC Milan in front after 52 minutes but then Fiorentina's Austrian goalkeeper Alex Manninger kept his side afloat by saving a penalty from Milan's Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko.

The sending off AC Milan's Italian international Gennaro Gattuso further tilted the game towards Fiorentina who then equalised in injury time through Brazilian striker Adriano to give new coach Ottavio Bianchi a precious draw in his first game in charge.

**Bologna 3 Chievo Verona 1, Fiorentina 1 AC Milan 1, Inter Milan 2 Parma 0, Juventus 3 Atalanta 0, Lazio 5 Perugia 0, Lecce 0 Piacenza 0, Udinese 1 Roma 1, Verona 1 Venezia 0, Brescia 1 Torino 2.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	19	12	5	2	35	16	41
AS Roma	19	11	7	1	29	12	40
Juventus	19	10	7	2	35	14	37
Chievo Verona	18	10	3	5	33	25	33
AC Milan	19	8	8	3	27	19	32
Bologna	19	9	4	6	20	19	31
Lazio	18	7	7	4	26	13	28
Verona	19	8	4	7	26	27	28
Torino	19	6	5	8	23	25	23
Piacenza	19	6	4	9	24	25	22
Udinese	19	6	4	9	26	32	22
Perugia	19	6	4	9	20	28	22
Atalanta	19	6	4	9	24	34	22
Lecce	19	4	7	8	19	26	19
Brescia	19	4	7	8	21	32	19
Parma	19	4	6	9	22	30	18
Fiorentina	19	4	4	11	21	38	16
Venezia	19	2	4	13	16	32	10



Fiorentina's Brazilian player Adriano celebrates after scoring the last minute equalizer against AC Milan.





# Ruud rewrites the recordbooks



Arsenal's Thierry Henry (right) challenges Leeds United's Danny Mills during their Premiership clash at Elland Rd.

**BOLTON WANDERERS 0**  
**CHARLTON ATHLETIC 0**  
Michael Ricketts hit the crossbar in the first half for Bolton from 20 metres but his side's poor home record continued this season – with only two wins in eight games.

Paul Gascoigne came on in the second half for Everton and the breakthrough finally came in the 76th minute

**MANCHESTER UTD 2**  
**BLACKBURN ROVERS 1**  
After Laurent Blanc was felled in the penalty area,

Ruud van Nistelrooy lashed the spotkick into the net to become the first man to score in eight successive English premier league games.

Four minutes after the break, Matt Jansen teed up Craig Hignett to level for Rovers and Damien Duff, clean through, should have made it 2-1 as the visitors briefly took control.

Van Nistelrooy's spectacular overhead kick crashed against the Blackburn bar and United grabbed their winner when Roy Keane collected a Ryan Giggs backheel and beat Rovers keeper Brad Friedel with nine minutes remaining.

**LEEDS UNITED 1**  
**ARSENAL 1**

Both sides cancelled each other out in a disappointing draw at Elland Road.

Robbie Fowler put Leeds in control by heading home a Jason Wilcox cross after six minutes – his seventh goal since joining from Liverpool.

But Frenchman Robert Pires equalised seconds before the interval after excellent approach play from Dennis Bergkamp and Thierry Henry.

Mark Viduka, who appeared to elbow Martin Keown in the first half, had a penalty appeal for handball against Patrick Vieira turned down 10 minutes from time.

**CHELSEA 5**  
**WEST HAM 1**

West Ham's Paolo Di Canio was sent off for stamping on Jody Morris 20 minutes from time as Chelsea turned on the style at Stamford Bridge.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink gave

Chelsea the lead on the stroke of halftime, before two goals in nine minutes after the break – from Eidur Gudjohnsen and Haselbaink – put the game out of West Ham's reach.

After Di Canio's indiscretion, Gudjohnsen scored his second in the 87th minute, before Jermain Defoe's consolation strike for the visitors and Mikael Forssell's late fifth completed the scoring.

**DERBY COUNTY 1**  
**IPSWICH TOWN 3**

Marcus Stewart, back in the side after recovering from a badly broken jaw, rapped a first-half penalty against the post as Ipswich squandered the best early opportunity in the basement battle at Pride Park.

The visitors were ahead two minutes after the break through Marcus Bent before Derby's Deon Burton saw his spotkick saved by Ipswich keeper Andy Marshall.

Sixto Peralta doubled Ipswich's lead after 67 minutes, Malcolm Christie headed one back for Derby but Martijn Reuser wrapped up a valuable three points for George Burley's side with Ipswich's third three minutes from time.

**LIVERPOOL 1**  
**SOUTHAMPTON 1**

Michael Owen put Liverpool in front after only eight minutes, snapping up the loose ball after Southampton goalkeeper Paul Jones failed to hold Dietmar Hamann's drive.

The visitors caught Liverpool cold after the break, when Stephane Henchoz failed to clear after a surging run by Chris Marsden and Kevin Davies drove

the ball home.

Southampton pressed for the winner after that and Anders Svensson smashed a long-range effort against the post as Liverpool lost their way. Phil Thompson's side have now won only once in nine league games.

**MIDDLESBROUGH 1**  
**BOLTON WANDERERS 1**

Noel Whelan gave Middlesbrough a much-needed lead seven minutes before the interval at the Riverside.

But Bolton showed their fighting spirit once again by equalising through Bo Hansen's crashing shot after 73 minutes to avert a damaging defeat.

**SUNDERLAND 1**  
**FULHAM 1**

A fine individual goal by A'Steed Malbranque after 15 minutes gave draw specialists Fulham the lead at the Stadium of Light.

Stuttering Sunderland improved after that and deserved their equaliser through Kevin Phillips midway through the second half.

**TOTTENHAM 1**  
**EVERTON 1**

Les Ferdinand met an Oyvind Leonhardsen cross to head Spurs into a fifth-minute lead with his 14th goal of the season.

But Everton were soon level when David Weir netted three minutes later. Spurs had the better of the game after that but failed to find a winner.

**LEICESTER CITY 0**  
**NEWCASTLE UNITED 0**

Leicester battered away at a Newcastle side who looked well below par, with Jamie Scowcroft going close on several occasions.

Laurent Robert went close but Newcastle rarely looked like recording their seventh away win of the season.



West Ham goal keeper David James (right) makes a save, watched by Chelsea's Mario Stanic.

## PREMIER DIVISION

Chelsea 4 Liverpool 0, Leeds United 2 Leicester City 2, Bolton Wanderers 0 Charlton Athletic 0, Everton 1 Derby County 0, Middlesbrough 0 Manchester United 1, Newcastle Utd 2 Blackburn Rovers 1, Southampton 2 Sunderland 0, Tottenham Hotspur 4 Fulham 0, West Ham Utd 1 Arsenal 1, Aston Villa v Ipswich Town.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	23	14	3	6	56	33	45
Newcastle Utd	23	13	4	6	42	29	43
Leeds United	23	11	9	3	35	21	42
Arsenal	22	11	8	3	43	26	41
Liverpool	23	11	7	5	32	24	40
Chelsea	23	9	10	4	40	23	37
Tottenham Hotspur	23	9	5	9	34	30	32
Aston Villa	22	8	8	6	29	27	32
Fulham	22	7	10	5	23	22	31
Charlton Athletic	22	7	8	7	28	28	29
Sunderland	23	7	7	9	19	25	28
West Ham Utd	23	7	7	9	27	39	28
Everton	23	7	6	10	25	30	27
Southampton	23	8	2	13	27	37	26
Blackburn Rovers	23	6	7	10	30	29	25
Bolton Wanderers	23	5	10	8	27	35	25
Ipswich Town	23	6	6	11	31	33	24
Middlesbrough	22	6	5	11	21	31	23
Derby County	23	5	4	14	17	41	19
Leicester City	22	3	8	11	14	37	17

## DIVISION ONE

Norwich 0 Millwall 0, West Bromwich 1 Walsall 0, Watford 1 Manchester City 2, Barnsley 3 Bradford 3, Birmingham 0 Wimbledon 2, Burnley 1 Sheffield Wed. 2, Coventry 0 Stockport 0, Crewe 2 Grimsby 0, Crystal Palace 2 Rotherham 0, Preston 0 Gillingham 2, Sheffield Utd 0 Nottingham Forest 0, Portsmouth 2 Wolverhampton 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City	29	18	4	7	68	38	58
Wolverhampton	29	16	7	6	46	26	55
Millwall	30	15	8	7	50	30	53
West Bromwich	30	15	6	9	34	23	51
Burnley	28	15	6	7	50	40	51
Crystal Palace	30	16	2	12	54	41	50
Norwich	30	15	5	10	42	39	50
Birmingham	30	13	8	9	45	35	47
Coventry	29	13	5	11	34	29	44
Preston	29	11	10	8	44	38	43
Gillingham	30	12	6	12	44	42	42
Watford	29	11	7	11	43	35	40
Nottingham Forest	30	9	13	8	32	27	40
Wimbledon	28	10	9	9	44	39	39
Sheffield United	30	9	12	9	32	35	39
Bradford	29	10	6	13	52	56	36
Portsmouth	29	10	6	13	42	47	36
Barnsley	30	7	11	12	42	55	32
Crewe	28	8	8	12	28	42	32
Rotherham	28	7	10	11	34	43	31
Sheffield Wed.	29	7	9	13	30	46	30
Walsall	30	7	6	17	32	49	27
Grimsby	30	6	9	15	25	50	27
Stockport	30	2	7	21	25	67	13

## SECOND DIVISION

Bristol City	29	15	6	8	45	31	51
Stoke City	27	14	8	5	40	23	50
Brighton	26	13	10	3	38	25	49
Queens Park Rangers	28	13	7	8	42	31	46
Brentford	27	13	6	8	48	31	45
Oldham Athletic	28	12	9	7	48	34	45
Tranmere Rovers	26	12	7	7	46	34	43
Huddersfield	27	11	9	7	40	30	42
Cardiff City	27	10	11	6	39	32	41
Wycombe Wanderers	26	10	9	7	38	33	39
Colechester Utd	28	11	6	11	45	45	39
Wigan Athletic	28	9	10	9	40	33	37
Port Vale	29	10	6	13	35	41	36
Peterborough Utd	26	10	5	11	37	33	35
Chesterfield	26	9	7	10	36	36	34
Blackpool	28	8	10	10	36	47	34
Swindon Town	27	8	8	11	28	37	32
Bournemouth	27	7	7	13	31	41	28
Bury	28	7	6	15	26	46	27
Notts County	27	6	8	13	35	46	26
Wrexham	29	6	5	18	31	62	23
Northampton Town	27	6	3	18	27	50	21
Cambridge Utd	27	4	7	16	26	54	19



## Spanish Primera Liga

# Barcelona in freefall

Barcelona's bid for three consecutive wins was left in tatters in the Estadio de Vallecas after bottom club Rayo Vallecano recorded a spirited 2-1 victory on Sunday.

Elvir Bolic opened the scoring with a stunning drive into the top corner from just outside the area after 25 minutes and the home side held that lead until midway through the second half.

Rayo keeper, Imanol Etxeberria, came out of his area to head clear a high ball, but it fell straight to Xavi who volleyed over the stranded stopper and into the net from 40 yards.

Barca were in the ascendancy, but failed to create any clear cut opportunities and paid the price as Rayo hit them on the counter attack.

Ramon De Quintana rose highest at the far post to head the ball back across goal an into the far corner to give the home side their second victory in four days.

Relegation haunted Mallorca did not miss their Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o as they recorded an impressive 3-0 victory over high-flying Athletic Bilbao.

Albert Luque opened the scoring nine minutes before the break Vicente Engonga doubled their lead from the penalty spot after the interval and Losada completed the



Barcelona's Brazilian player Rivaldo (left) falls in front of four Rayo Vallecano's players.

scoring on the stroke of full time.

Deportivo La Coruna made the most of a weekend of upsets by beating Las Palmas 1-0 to go third. Nacho Gonzalez's own goal on 62 minutes separated the two sides.

Valladolid claimed their consecutive top six scalp as they beat Valencia 2-1 in the Mestalla, a week after trouncing Deportivo.

Luis Garcia shocked the home side with his opening goal after 20 minutes, but El Che hit back six minutes later when Mauricio Pellegrino netted.

But Fernando Sales settled the issue ten minutes before half time as he scored the winner to increase Valladolid's belief that they can qualify for Europe next term.

Real Betis left it late to earn a point in their 1-1 draw with

Espanyol in the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona. Jose Palencia had scored with just 11 minutes remaining and that looked enough to give the home side a valuable victory, but Joao Tomas popped up two minutes before the end to level for the Andalucians.

Seville came from behind to record a 4-2 victory over struggling Real Zaragoza in the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium.

Toro Acuna gave the visitors the lead after 13 minutes, but a goal from Jose Reyes (19) and two from Nicolas Olivera (50, 53) saw Sevilla take the upper hand.

But a Luciano Galletti strike midway through the second period set the game for a frantic finish and it was not until Victor scored in the injury time that the home

side assured themselves of victory.

Juan Antonion Pizzi scored his first goal since joining Villarreal, but unfortunately it was in his own goal as he helped Osasuna to earn a 2-2 draw in El Sadar.

Australian John Aloisi had netted after just three minutes for the home side and Guayre had levelled for the Yellow Submarines 22 minutes later.

Then a minute before half time the home side were handed the lead when Pizzi was in the wrong place at the right time and he steered the ball past Javier Lopez Vallejo.

But the visitors were able to earn themselves a share of the spoils when Guayre grabbed his and Villarreal's second of the game on the hour mark.

Tenerife drew 1-1 Celta Vigo. Bino's 27th minute strike put the Islanders in front only for Catanha to earn the visitors a point on 72 minutes.

La Coruna 1 Las Palmas 0, Espanyol 1 Real Betis 1, Osasuna 2 Villarreal 2, Rayo Vallecano 2 Barcelona 1, Real Mallorca 3 Athletic Bilbao 0, Sevilla 4 Real Zaragoza 2, Tenerife 1 Celta Vigo 1, Valencia 1 Valladolid 2, Malaga 1 Real Madrid 1, Real Sociedad 1 Alaves 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	21	11	6	4	38	23	39
Alaves	20	11	3	6	22	13	36
La Coruna	21	11	3	7	34	28	36
Celta Vigo	21	8	10	3	38	24	34
Athletic Bilbao	21	9	7	5	29	29	34
Barcelona	21	9	6	6	31	20	33
Valencia	21	8	9	4	24	19	33
Real Betis	21	9	6	6	22	20	33
Valladolid	21	9	4	8	25	34	31
Sevilla	21	8	6	7	34	27	30
Las Palmas	21	7	6	8	23	18	27
Malaga	21	6	8	7	24	26	26
Espanyol	21	7	5	9	25	32	26
Villarreal	21	6	6	9	22	25	24
Osasuna	21	6	6	9	20	27	24
Real Zaragoza	21	7	3	11	20	31	24
Real Mallorca	21	6	5	10	23	29	23
Tenerife	21	6	4	11	15	25	22
Real Sociedad	21	5	4	12	25	31	19
Rayo Vallecano	20	4	5	11	21	34	17

## THIS WEEK

(Sunday, January 27)

Real Madrid vs Betis  
Valladolid vs Malaga  
Las Palmas vs Valencia  
Athletic Bilbao vs Deportivo Coruna  
Alaves vs Mallorca  
Celta Vigo vs Real Sociedad  
Villarreal vs Tenerife  
Barcelona vs Osasuna  
Zaragoza vs Rayo Vallecano  
Sevilla vs Espanyol

## BELGIAN ERSTEKLASSE



Genk's Wesley Sonck (right) fights for the ball with Antwerp's Tom Peeters.

## SKOKO DOUBLE TAKES GENK TO THE TOP

Josip Skoko scored twice as Genk replaced Club Bruges at the top of the League on Saturday after coming from behind to record a 2-1 victory at home Royal Antwerp.

Antwerp opened the scoring after only two minutes when Patrick Goots picked out Stefan Leleu with a free kick and he headed his side in front.

Only five minutes later, however, Skoko pulled his side level from ten yards after a clever pass from top scorer Wesley Sonck.

Skoko decided the match five minutes before the break with a fierce shot after combining well with Koen Daerden. Club Bruges failed to regain the lead after throwing away a 2-0 lead at home to Lokeren to slump to a shock defeat.

Bruges went in front on 26 minutes when Norwegian striker Rune Lange fired home off a pass from Olivier de Cock and were seemingly on their way to victory when Gaetan Englebert fired a free kick through the wall and beyond Lokeren keeper Daniel Zitka to put the home side 2-0 up.

Lokeren's confidence looked shot, but on 36 minutes they were helped back into the match when Bruges defender Tjorven de Brul, deflected Arnar Vidarsson's long ball beyond the reach of his own keeper.

Just two minutes later the scores were level. Lokeren broke quickly out of defence and Patrick Zoundi picked out Davy de Beule who stunned Bruges with the equaliser. Lokeren took the lead on 58 minutes when Zoundi this time picked out Sambegou Bangoura who shot hard and low to give his side the advantage. Five minutes later Zoundi latched onto Suad Katana's pass and burst free of Olivier De Cock before completing the scoring and an improbable win.

Anderlecht remain three points behind Genk after a 5-2 thrashing of La Louviere at the Parc Astrid.

Nenad Jestrovic finally made his long-awaited first start for Anderlecht after injury and had an immediate impact, putting his side ahead on ten minutes off Ivica Mornar's pass. Louviere surprisingly drew level through Nicolas Ouedec on 40 minutes, but only 3 minutes later defender Bertrand Crasson headed home Walter Baseggio's corner to restore the home side's advantage.

Anderlecht made sure of the victory in the second half with a pair of goals from Gilles de Bilde and one from Besnak Hasi before Frederic Tilmant scored a consolation for Louviere with 13 minutes to play.

Anderlecht close to within a point of fourth placed Ghent who could only draw 1-1 at home to Excelsior Mouscron.

Lierse 3 Beveren 3, Club Bruges 2 Lokeren 4, Eendracht Aalst 0 Westerlo 1, Anderlecht 5 La Louviere 2, Charleroi 3 Molenbeek 1, Genk 2 Royal Antwerp 1, Ghent 1 Excelsior Mouscron 1, Lommel 0 St Truiden 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Genk	19	12	6	1	56	25	42
Club Bruges	19	13	1	5	44	24	40
Standard Liege	18	12	4	2	38	18	40
Ghent	19	12	4	3	34	22	40
Anderlecht	19	11	6	2	43	22	39
Lokeren	19	10	5	4	31	20	35
Beerschot	18	7	6	5	36	25	27
Mouscron	19	8	2	9	41	29	26
St Truiden	19	7	4	8	27	28	25
Charleroi	19	7	3	9	18	36	24
Westerlo	19	6	3	10	30	36	21
Lommel	19	5	6	8	29	37	21
Lierse	19	4	6	9	29	34	18
Royal Antwerp	19	4	5	10	25	33	17
Molenbeek	19	5	2	12	24	36	17
La Louviere	19	3	6	10	23	42	15
Aalst	19	4	3	12	18	47	15
Beveren	19	1	6	12	20	52	9

Tenerife's Italian Christian Bassetas (foreground) tries to control the ball in front of Celta Vigo's Brazilian Everton Giovannella.



## SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE



Celtic's Henrik Larsson defies critics with his 21st goal of the season after a goalscoring drought.

### RANGERS OVERCOME IRATE FANS, ABERDEEN

Crowd trouble reared its ugly head once again in Rangers' narrow 1-0 victory at Scottish Premier League rivals Aberdeen on Saturday.

Aberdeen striker Robbie Winters was hit on the back of the head with a coin as he was about to take the corner in front of the Rangers fans about 20 minutes into the game, which had already seen a number of missiles being thrown on to the pitch.

Police were then forced to stop a confrontation between rival supporters at which point the referee, Mike McCurry, decided to take both teams off.

The players returned about 20 minutes later and Italian defender Amoruso scored Rangers' winner nine minutes from half-time with a 20-yard left-foot strike.

Henrik Larsson answered his critics by scoring the goal that helped runaway leaders Celtic earn a 2-1 win at home to basement club St Johnstone.

Larsson found space in the penalty box to shoot past Saints' keeper Alan Miller and level the scores after the visitors had taken the lead through Darren Dods' far-post header. Alan Thompson netted Celtic's winner to maintain their 13 point lead over second-placed Rangers. A last-minute goal by Jim McIntyre gave Dundee United a deserved 1-0 win in the Tayside derby and put more pressure on beleaguered Dundee boss Ivano Bonetti.

Dunfermline maintained their good recent run of form with a 3-1 win at home to Motherwell.

Lithuanian defender Andrie Skerla put the hosts in front and Gary Mason doubled the lead four minutes into the second half. Lee Bullen put Dunfermline 3-0 ahead before the impressive James McFadden grabbed a consolation for the visitors 13 minutes from time.

Franck Sauzee is still looking for his first league win since taking charge of Hibernian after Kilmarnock battled back from being two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw at Easter Road. Ecuadorian striker Eduardo Hurtado fired the home side in front after just 11 minutes and an own goal from James Fowler gave Hibernian a two-goal advantage just after the hour.

Former Celtic man Tommy Johnson pulled one back with his first goal for his new club before Kris Boyd grabbed a point for the visitors with a last-minute leveller. Livingston cemented their hold on third place with a comfortable 2-0 win at Almondvale to bring to an end Hearts' recent mini revival.

Craig Levein's men faced an uphill struggle to get anything from the game when they were reduced to 10 men following the dismissal of Alan Maybury after 33 minutes. The home side made their numerical supremacy count when they took the lead nine minutes after the break through David Bingham and Spanish striker David Fernandez wrapped up the win with the second in the 66th minute.

Aberdeen 0 Rangers 1, Celtic 2 St Johnstone 1, Dundee United 1 Dundee 0, Dunfermline Athletic 3 Motherwell 1, Hibernian 2 Kilmarnock 2, Livingston 2 Hearts 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	24	22	1	1	57	12	67
Rangers	24	16	6	2	53	17	54
Livingston	24	12	7	5	35	20	43
Hearts	25	10	4	11	34	31	34
Aberdeen	24	10	3	11	32	36	33
Kilmarnock	24	9	5	10	25	28	32
Dunfermline Ath.	24	9	4	11	28	38	31
Dundee United	25	7	7	11	24	43	28
Dundee	23	7	5	11	23	35	26
Motherwell	25	6	6	13	32	48	24
Hibernian	25	5	8	12	29	38	23
St Johnstone	25	3	4	18	16	42	13

## FRENCH CUP

### TOP SIDES EXIT ENMASSE

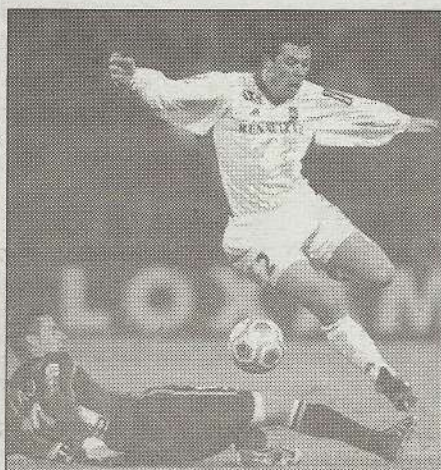
Marseille stunned league leaders Lens with a 1-0 victory at Bollaert stadium in the French Cup on a day which saw eight Division One teams exit the competition.

Bordeaux fell to Division Three side Lusitanos and Lyon went out to Division Two Chateauroux. Marseille kept their European dreams alive thanks to a single goal from Real Madrid recruit Rivera, who made no mistake from the penalty spot on 62 minutes.

Lens had created the first opportunities of the game but two Daniel Moreira efforts were well saved by Vedran Runje. The home side could have been awarded a penalty just after the restart after a controversial tackle on Moreira by Franck Leboeuf, who made his return with the French giants following a month on the sidelines.

Although they languish in 15th spot of the third division, Lusitanos defeated Girondins Bordeaux thanks to goals by Doudou Kamata, during the first half, and Pimenta, four minutes into injury time.

Chateauroux shocked Lyon with a 2-0 victory at Gerland stadium, while Bastia, Monaco and Lorient managed to go through against fellow Division One teams Sochaux, Montpellier and Rennes, all 2-1.



Eric Deflandre of Lyon, (right) and Fabrice Jau of Bastia, (left) challenge for the ball during their match.

PSG only needed a Jose Aloisio strike to qualify for the last 16 of the French Cup against Division Five Yzeure.

After taking out Auxerre in the previous round, Division Four side Libourne Saint Seurin defeated top-flight strugglers Metz 2-1 thanks to an own goal by Moreau during extra time.

Issy-Jes-Moulineaux (VIII) 0 Amiens (II) 1, St Priest (IV) 0 Nancy (II) 2, Change (V) 0 Reims (III) 3, US Montagnarde (VI) 4 La Roche-sur-Yon (IH) 2, RC Lens 0 Olympique Marseille 1, Lusitanos (III) 2 Girondins Bordeaux 0, Libourne-St Seurin (IV) 2 Metz 1, (after extra-time, 90 minutes 1-1), Stade Rennes 1 Lorient 2, Bastia 2 Sochaux 1, (after extra-time, 90 minutes 1-1), Sedan v AC Ajaccio (II) postponed, (frozen pitch) Laval (II) 0 Nimes (II) 0, (after extra-time, Nimes won 5-3 on penalties), Olympique Lyon 0 Chateauroux (II) 2, Yzeure (V) 0 Paris St Germain 1, Louhans-Cuiseaux (III) 2 En Avant Guingamp 0, Monaco 2 Montpellier 1, Strasbourg (II) v Troyes postponed.

## PORTUGUESE LIGA



Porto player Pena (front) fights for the ball with Boavista player Frechaut during their ill-tempered derby at the Bessa Stadium over the weekend.

### BOAVISTA CLAIM PORTO DERBY

Boavista claimed an important victory in Sunday's clash at the Bessa stadium, moving to within a point of leaders Sporting Lisbon and increasing the pressure on under-fire Porto boss Octavio Machado.

A total of ten players were booked in a bad-tempered affair while Porto's Brazilian midfielder Deco was sent off during a frantic finale.

In a game of poor quality, Boavista enjoyed the majority of possession in the first half and took the lead in the 43rd minute when Silva's shot was parried by Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia into the path of Armando Petit, who fired home.

Porto looked more determined in the second period and came close to an equaliser when Helder Postiga headed against the bar.

However, the hosts held firm in defence and re-asserted their dominance as the Porto challenge waned. With the game becoming more and more scrappy Deco was given his marching orders for a second bookable offence, the second being for an ugly lunge on Petit.

Baia joined the Porto attack in the dying seconds as they searched desperately for an equaliser but a breakaway saw the ball reach the feet of Martelinho, who slotted into the empty net.

The result is sure to prompt further calls for Machado to be sacked as Porto's title challenge continues to fade.

Varzim 2 Vitoria Setubal 1, Maritimo 3 Beira Mar 1, Pacos Ferreira 2, Alverca 2, Santa Clara 1 Uniao Leiria 1, Boavista 2 Porto 0, Salgueiros 1 Benfica 4, Vitoria Guimaraes 3 Farense 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	19	12	3	4	33	13	39
Sporting	18	11	4	3	40	15	37
Benfica	19	9	8	2	33	21	35
Uniao Leiria	19	9	7	3	34	17	34
Porto	19	10	3	6	31	18	33
Maritimo	19	9	2	8	25	21	29
Vitoria Guimaraes	19	8	4	7	23	21	28
Belenenses	18	8	4	6	26	26	28
Pacos Ferreira	19	6	7	6	24	29	25
Gil Vicente	18	7	3	8	23	30	24
Santa Clara	19	6	6	7	17	24	24
Braga	18	6	5	7	24	18	23
Salgueiros	19	6	3	10	19	39	21
Alverca	19	5	4	10	24	37	19
Beira Mar	19	4	6	9	28	34	18
Farense	19	5	3	11	15	30	18
Vitoria Setubal	19	4	5	10	20	24	17
Varzim	19	3	5	11	15	37	14

## WORLD LEAGUES

### TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Bursaspor 0 Goztepe 0, Kocaelispor 2 Rizespor 1, Yozgatspor 0 Denizlispor 1, Trabzonspor 0 Besiktas 5, (abandoned after 85 minutes, crowd trouble), Diyarbakirspor 1 Genclerbirliigi 2, Malatyaspor 2 Istanbulspor 0, Ankaragucu 2 Antalyaspor 0, Galatasaray 2 Gaziantepspor 0, Samsunspor 1 Fenerbahce 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	18	13	3	2	48	23	42
Besiktas	17	11	3	3	45	23	36
Fenerbahce	18	11	1	6	36	20	34
Ankaragucu	18	9	3	6	42	28	30
Istanbulspor	18	9	3	6	19	17	30
Gaziantepspor	18	8	4	6	25	21	28
Kocaelispor	18	8	4	6	26	27	28
Bursaspor	18	8	3	7	22	26	27
Trabzonspor	17	7	4	6	28	21	25
Denizlispor	18	5	6	7	31	25	21
Diyarbakirspor	18	6	3	9	29	35	21
Samsunspor	18	6	3	9	17	26	21
Goztepe	18	5	6	7	13	30	21
Rizespor	18	4	7	7	21	24	19
Genclerbirliigi	18	4	6	8	26	35	18
Antalyaspor	18	4	5	9	24	41	17
Yozgatspor	18	4	4	10	24	33	16
Malatyaspor	18	5	0	13	16	37	15

### GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Xanthi 1 Panathinaikos 2, Panahaiki 3 PAOK Salonika 3, Aris Salonika 1 Iraklis 1, AEK Athens 2 Olympiakos 3, Ionikos 2 Akrotitos 1, Ethnikos Asteras 0 Panionios 2, Aegaleo 0 OFI Crete 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	12	8	4	0	33	14	28
2. AEK Athens	12	9	0	3	29	13	27
3. PAOK Salonika	12	6	4	2	21	17	22
4. Panathinaikos	12	6	3	3	26	14	21
5. Xanthi	12	5	4	3	18	13	19
6. OFI Crete	12	5	3	4	15	12	18
7. Aris Salonika	12	4	5	3	14	13	17
8. Iraklis	12	4	5	3	15	16	17
9. Panionios	12	4	4	4	16	20	16
10. Ethnikos Ast.	12	3	3	6	10	16	12
11. Akrotitos	12	2	3	7	13	18	9
12. Ionikos	12	1	5	6	9	22	8
13. Panahaiki	12	1	4	7	12	30	7
14. Aegaleo	12	1	3	8	13	26	6

### S. AFRICAN FIRST DIVISION

AmaZulu 1 Sundowns 1, Bush Bucks 0 Lamontville Golden Arrows 1, Orlando Pirates 2 Ajax Cape Town 0, SuperSport Utd 3 Hellenic 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moroka Swallows	20	11	6	3	26	15	39
Santos	20	10	7	3	26	16	37
Orlando Pirates	19	9	7	3	22	13	34
SuperSport Utd	19	10	4	5	24	21	34
Black Leopards	19	8	7	4	34	24	31
Manning Rangers	20	9	4	7	34	24	31
Ajax Cape Town	19	7	5	7	17	15	26
Wits University	21	6	8	7	20	20	26
Kaizer Chiefs	18	7	5	6	21	22	26
Jomo Cosmos	18	7	4	7	19	17	25
Bush Bucks	20	7	4	9	22	25	25
Free State Stars	20	6	6	8	18	18	24
Golden Arrows	20	5	9	6	21	22	24
Sundowns	13	5	6	2	12	8	21
Ria Stars	19	4	6	9	21	28	18
Hellenic	19	3	6	10	12	29	15
AmaZulu	20	2	8	10	12	26	14
Classic	20	0	10	10	14	32	10



# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 15	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
PERTH GLORY	14	11	2	1	1	34	13	35	7	6	1	0	16	5	7	5	1	1	18	8
NEWCASTLE UNITED	14	6	7	1	1	19	12	25	7	4	3	0	9	3	7	2	4	1	10	9
BRISBANE STRIKERS	14	7	4	3	1	22	16	25	7	3	2	2	9	7	7	4	4	1	13	9
OLYMPIC SHARKS	13	6	2	5	2	17	11	20	7	4	2	1	9	3	6	2	0	4	8	6
MARCONI STALLIONS	14	5	4	5	1	16	17	19	7	3	2	2	10	9	7	2	2	3	6	8
NORTHERN SPIRIT	14	5	4	5	1	20	22	19	7	2	1	4	7	13	7	3	3	1	13	9
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	14	6	1	7	1	19	21	19	6	4	1	2	9	9	7	2	0	5	10	14
PARRAMATTA POWER	14	5	3	6	1	15	16	18	7	3	1	3	9	9	7	2	2	3	6	7
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	14	4	4	6	1	15	22	16	6	2	0	4	5	9	8	2	2	4	9	13
ADELAIDE CITY	13	3	5	5	2	19	19	14	7	3	3	1	15	9	6	0	2	4	4	10
SYDNEY UNITED	14	4	2	8	1	13	22	14	7	1	2	4	7	14	7	4	0	3	6	6
SOUTH MELBOURNE	14	3	4	7	1	9	14	13	10	3	2	5	9	12	4	0	2	2	0	2
KINGZ FC	14	2	4	8	1	21	34	10	6	2	2	3	9	15	8	0	2	6	12	21

## SOUTH MELBOURNE

(Bacak 27, Boutsianis 88)

## FOOTBALL KINGZ

(Urlovic 70)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. Crowd: 5,021. Referee: P. Mur.

Cautions: Jackson (FK) 25, Buljan (SM) 53, Ngata (FK) 65, Durakovic (SM) 89.

Teams: **SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Petkovic, Iosifidis, Durakovic, Panopoulos, Buljan (Trimboli 77), Bacak, Tolios, Murdocca (Sekulovski 84), Kisorbo, Lia (De Amicis 77), Boutsianis.

**FOOTBALL KINGZ:** Theoklitos, Perry, Urlovic, Vlahos, Ngata, Campbell (Goutzioulis 46), Markovski (Davis 62), Burton, Hooker, Jackson, Douglas (Miyazawa 46).

## NEWCASTLE UNITED

(D McBreen 81)

## NORTHERN SPIRIT

(A Cervinski 23)

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium. Crowd: 10,107. Referee: B. Hugo.

Cautions: S Baillie (NU) 74'.

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Beltrame, Roberts, Bingley, Dodd, Wilson (McBreen 58), Griffiths, Baillie, Blagojevic, Schirripa (Surjan 79), Masi, Johnson.

**NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Watts, Bell, Thomas, McDermott, Foster (Spencer 85), Cervinski (86), Cardozo, Cranney, Hutchinson, Cartwright.

## ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

(L Pantelis 56, 88, M Seric 79)

## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(T Da Costa 48', 82')

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3,381. Referee: N. Fox.

Cautions: I De Jesus (MK) 38', S Horvat (MK) 81', A Vargas (MK) 92'.

Teams: **ADELAIDE CITY:** Godley, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Pantelis, Veart, Vidmar, Moreira (Seric 72), Tunbridge, Rees, Goulding, M Karlovic (Budin 72).

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** McGrath, R Vargas, Ognenovski, Horvat, Marth, Vasilevski, Porter, Da Costa, Jolic, Rocco (A Vargas 36), De Jesus.

## BRISBANE STRIKERS

(P Foster 80)

## SYDNEY UNITED

(C Cevenini 45+, A Milicic 54)

Venue: Ballymore. Crowd: 3,554. Referee: P. Green.

Cautions: P Foster (BS) 20', S McLaren (BS) 25', I Zelic (SU) 27', N Arrarte (SU) 73'.

Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearton, Alagich, Stefanutto, McKain (Heath 73), McLaren, Grierson (Dreger 62), Rech, Foster, Trajanovski (McKay 70), Carbone, McQuilter.

**SYDNEY UNITED:** Knezevic, Olic, Arrarte, Cunico, Mendez (Jedinak 90), Milicic, Talevski (Deur 81), Bilokapic, Sinozic, Zelic, Cevenini (Kopic 87).

## WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(A Ceccoli 14')

## PARRAMATTA POWER

Venue: WIN Stadium. Crowd: 4,022. Referee: M. Breeze.

Cautions: P Reid (WW) 29', N Orlic (PP) 45', P Bennett (PP) 59', A Ceccoli (WW) 60'.

Teams: **WOLLONGONG WOLVES:** Anastasiadis, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Castro, Reid, Young, Anthopoulos, Blake, Mennillo, Sharland (Wells 82).

**PARRAMATTA POWER:** Pogliacomini, Barrett, Orlic (Thompson 82), Tobin, O'Sullivan, Lapsansky, Buonavoglia (Kwasnik 71), Elrich, Eagleton (Fitzsimmons 46), Roodenburg, Bennett.

## MARCONI STALLIONS

(J Maisano 19')

## PERTH GLORY

(J Harnwell 48', D Mori 88')

Venue: Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 4,115. Referee: M. Shield.

Cautions: S Pryce (PG) 21', C Gibson (MS) 38', G Last (MS) 59', M Horsley (PG) 68'.

Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Babic (Beauchamp 59), Costanzo, Longo, Care (Bozinovski 68), Last, Maisano, Tome, Webb, Brosque (Radulovic 78), Gibson.

**PERTH GLORY:** Petkovic, Horsley, Harnwell, Deans, Miller (Tarka 73), Maloney, Despotovski (Faria 89), Hassell (Edwards 78), Junior, Mori, Pryce.

## PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Lucas Pantelis: Rescued Adelaide City from defeat with two well-taken goals against Melbourne Knights.

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	12
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	10
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	9
MILICIC Ante	Sydney United	8
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	7
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	7
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	6
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	6
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	6
TUNBRIDGE Scott	Adelaide City Force	6

## ROUND 16

FRIDAY JANUARY 25

Kingz FC vs Marconi Stallions

Northern Spirit vs Adelaide City Force

SATURDAY JANUARY 26

Parramatta Power vs Newcastle Utd

SUNDAY JANUARY 27

Melbourne Knights vs Olympic Sharks

Perth Glory vs Wollongong Wolves

Sydney United vs South Melbourne

Brisbane Strikers vs Bye

**BYE - OLYMPIC SHARKS**